VDEPENDI 13 JANUARY 1996 (TR 65p) 50p

No 2,882

I will not be pushed, says Major

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

John Major yesterday bluntly re-asserted his belief in the very One Nation" Toryism that Baroness Thatcher had derided in her controversial lecture and declared: "I will not be pushed off what I believe to be

In a determined effort to quell party anger in the aftermath of Lady Thatcher's lengthy right-wing critique of Tory "problems", the Prime Minister said: "We have been a One Nation Conservative Parpossibly have a two-nation party of any sort?"

In a robust first public reaction to the lecture in which Lady Thatcher suggested that Conservatives had not lived up to middle-class expectations, Mr Major declared in his Huntingdon constituency that his administration had delivered a "platform of prosperity" and added: "I do not intend to be pushed off it."

As MPs on either side of the Tories' ideological fault-line queued up to defend or attack Lady Thatcher's Thursday lecture in a fresh outbreak of pubty since the beginning of time lic squabbling. Mr Major and we are now...how can one refrained from direct personal

criticism of his predecessor. As very important part of the Conservative Party," she had "input" into party policy, the Prime Minister said. But Lord Howe - her one-

time ally, Chancellor, and For-eign Secretary - was withering about her remark that "One Nation" Tories were more like 'No Nation" Tories because of their espousal of European "federalism". It had been a "glib phrase and an expensive one", he said. "I fear it is her latter-day obsession with that question [Europe] that risks doing so much damage to her

own reputation and even in the

of the Government, in which we all worked together. In contrast to the official

Tory line, publicly advanced by Mr Major yesterday, that Lady Thatcher's lecture had been misconstrued and was essentially an attack on Labour, it was freely acknowledged in his circlé that he had been dismayed by content regarded

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said Mr Major was now "at war" with Lady Thatcher but the Prime Minister declared: "I have set out what I believe to be right and I shall fight for what I believe

right. Ray Whitney, chairman of the party's Positive European Group, said Lady Thatcher's speech had been "sad" and that she looked "old and ill" on television, while Julian Critchley, the outgoing MP for Aldershot, suggested that 'Lady Thatcher ought really to retire and open a tea shop in Bury St

Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, and one of the four right-wingers singled out for praise, said: "There are two interesting things about her speech - what last resort to the achievements to be right and I will not be she actually said and what you

to find in it. Five lines you've managed to blow up out of all proportion. What's in the rest of it includes a very extensive. detailed and effective demolition job on Tony Blair and the

Labour Party." Yet even on the most generous count, Lady Thatcher's at-tack on Labour occupies no more than two of the nine closely typed pages in her lecture text - about half the length of a section entitled "Rethinking Conservative Policy" and about the same length as one headed "What Has Gone

Leading article, page 16



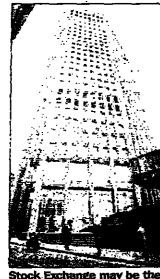
City bank in insider deals probe

DAVID HELLIER

The City was last night prepar-ing itself for a big insider-dealing inquiry, focusing on a link between a public relations firm and employees at Robert Fleming, the investment bank.

Industry inspectors are next week widely expected to be called on to investigate. The London Stock Ex-

change, whose surveillance the office after the New Year department investigates alle- break while the bank conductof privileged information, has been listening to tape-recorded



conversations between Financial Dynamics, one of the City's largest public relations companies, and employees of Robert Fleming. Financial Dynamics' clients include Tesco and The exchange is trying to as-

certain whether anyone at Robert Fleming or any of its member firms made improper use of privileged financial information about the building company Caradon in September last vear.

If they believe there is a prima facie case of wrongdoing, the usual procedure would be share options.

to pass the information to the Department of Trade and

Yesterday a source close to the investigation said a decision had been delayed: " as more and more information comes up. But we are pretty well Department of Trade and there now and there could be an announcement early next

> Three employees at Robert Fleming spent time away from eg ils own internat The stock exchange first investigated share dealings in Caradon last September after the building products firm was forced to bring forward its results and make a profits

> On the Friday before the results were due there was unusually high turnover in the shares, which fell sharply.

At the time stock market dealers expressed concern over the trades, saying that the volume of trade implied that some people were aware of Caradon's poor performance in advance of the publication of the compa-

The initial investigation appears to have lapsed. But in the past few weeks fresh information has been passed to the stock exchange, which forms the basis of its latest

inquiries. Financial Dynamics believes it is the victim of a smear campaign and rejected suggestions that anyone was contemplating resignation. Financial Dynamics was recently rebuked by the City Takeover Panel in an unrelated incident which involved passing on information about a client's future profits performance during the course of a contested

takeover battle. Some directors of Financial Dynamics are expected to receive hundreds of thousands of pounds in earn-outs shortly. while others are hoping to



East meets West: US soldiers greet the first Russian troops to serve with Nato in Bosnia as they arrive in Tuzia, Report, page 10

DNA test for 1,200 lorry drivers

CHRIS MOWBRAY and JASON BENNETTO

DNA testing is to be used na-tionally for the first time in an attempt to catch the murderer of the French student Celine Figard, whom police revealed yesterday was probably raped

before being strangled. The naked body of Celine, 19, was found dumped in woodland in Worcestershire 10 days after she was given a lift by a lorry driver.

Police hunting her killer said yesterday that they intend to ake DNA samples from all 1,200 drivers who own white Mercedes lorries similar to the one which Celine climbed into before she disappeared.

It will be the first time that

bers of a particular trade, compare this sample with those we should find the man re-Large-scale screening in previous murder inquiries has only

been done on a local basis. In the most recent case up to 800 DNA samples, from mouth swabs, were taken from young men in the hunt for the killer of the schoolgirl Naomi Smith. The tests started in October from the village of Ansley Com-mon. near Nuneaton, Warwickshire, where Naomi, 15, was found stabbed and sexually as-

saulted. In November a 19year-old man was charged with her murder. The latest development in the Celine murder inquiry comes as police revealed that the student had been raped. Samples taken from her body have provided police with DNA, which

taken from the lorry drivers. Anyone refusing to co-operate

will be further investigated. Celine was last seen on 19 December being given a lift at Chievely Services on the M4 in Berkshire. The driver of the vehicle is described as a white man, in his late 30s and with fair or ginger hair and a close-

cropped beard.
Detective Chief Superintendent John McCammont, the head of West Mercia CID, said: "The forensic evidence shows that she had sexual intercourse since travelling from France and I believe it took place without her consent.

"This sample will be of great value in eliminating drivers from our investigation. If we mass testing has been carried they believe belongs to her carry out DNA testing on all dri-out nationally and on the mem-killer. Forensic scientists plan to vers of White Mercedes lorries,

sponsible or discover that he has gone missing.

"The new evidence will be

welcomed by members of the

haulage industry who are ... genuinely aghast and appalled." The DNA from Celine's body will also be checked against the newly established national DNA database of "genetic fingerprints" to see whether it matches any samples taken from criminals or at the scene of other offences.

The database - the first in the world - was set up last April. Since then police have been able to take samples from anyone being questioned in connection with a recorded crime. At first, only samples from a limited number of categories - sex offences, burglary and serious assault - are being recorded.

Sita would be glad to collect her water from a stand pipe

The shrivelling

of Apple Mac

The woman

behind the

biggest stars

in Hollywood

getaway guide

to weekend

How to sell

a house in

January

skiing

The quick



Recently thousands of despite in the Unithad to collect their water from stand pipes and littler tankers - and that's eventil what Sits and her community would like to do.

Because for many people in the developing world

If you sponsor a child the Sits through ACTIONAID. se could work diosely with the could suppriminally to provide permanent source of sale, clean water close to the village Basides improving than health is including the children time. to go to corodi and align mothers to eart mer own income. Flease sponsor a child, and give a community and its

children same of the things we take for granted.

on Gestalander († 1945) Dens Gestal († 1945) Count sports or a child now, but employe a gift of.

The cream First we confid AD are asset on AD DAS RESERVE

Harlequins turn Japanese in rugby revolution



STEVE BALE

Harlequins are blessed with one of the most evocative years longer than NEC.

names in rugby, but what's in a

But this is the price of names in rugby, but what's in a name? The Quins yesterday entered into a three-year corporate partnership with NEC. the Japanese electronics giant. worth around £1.5m which from next season will rechristen them, as their publicity blurb puts it, "NEC Harlequins ... of Oval". London".

hand, may take some persuading. The coming of professionthat the Harlequin Football

Club was prepared to adulterdistinction for 130 years - 31

progress, as several other sporting institutions have discovered. Instead of the plain old FA Cup, we now have "The FA Cup, sponsored by Littlewoods" and the home of Test cricket in south London is "The Foster's

NEC's money will go a con-Sports editors, on the other siderable way towards funding the player contracts that are being drawn up ready for the end alism had already shown that of the rugby football union's start at the end of this season, nothing was sacrosanct, so per-moratorium in May, leaving with the seating in place for next haps we should not be surprised Roger Looker, the club chairman, to suggest Quins would be

"highly competitive in the terms ate the title that had served with that will be offered to our players". More in keeping with Harlequin tradition, yesterday's announcement took place at the Savoy Hotel in London, with a goodly turn-out of players though not the England captain Will Carling - present to hear the personally felicitous news.

Quins partnership with NEC coincides with plans for a new 4,200-seater east stand at the Stoop Memorial Ground for which consent has been granted by Richmond council. Work on the £4m project is due to season and work completed by the end of the year.

NEC's support, designed so that Harlequins are not bought out as other clubs have been, also incorporates a youth-development programme initially based in London and taking in the sports scholarships the club is inaugurating at the University of Surrey. Quins intend that this is

developed on a national basis. "At this time of considerable change in the game, we have reviewed our financial position in detail and will be introducing a number of major initiatives in the coming months," Mr Looker said. Among the initiatives are the NEC-Harlequins cheerleaders: Adrian Stoop must be turning in his grave, if only to

Ecstasy death warning A teenager who went into a coma after taking eestasy ap-

pealed to youngsters not to dance with death". Page 3 Millennium showdown

IN BRIDE

Greenwich and Birmingham lead the contest to host the Millennium Exhibition. Page 8

Today's weather Breezy with sunny spells and showers.



BUSINESS 18-21 COMMENT 16.17 CROSSWORD 2.28 GAZETTE 14 LEADING ARTICLE 16 LETTERS 16 NEWS 2-13 OBITL'ARIES 14 SHARES 20 SPORT 22-28 UNIT TRUSTS 21 WEATHER 2

Independent WEEKEND ARTS 7,8 BOOKS 9-11 BRIDGE 27 CHESS 27 LISTINGS 26 MONEY 22-25 MOTORING 20 PROPERTY 21 REVIEWS 8 SHOPPING 4-6 TELEVISION & RADIO 27,28 TRAVEL 14-19

Wildcat strike hits post in London

Labour Editor

An unofficial strike yesterday caused widespread disruption to London's postal system in a dispute over casual workers which began with a fight between two Royal Mail employees.

Management taped up pillar boxes in the capital vesterday as four out of the five main sorting offices were hit.

The altercation between two

Impasse

on arms

set to

continue

Former US senator George Mitchell said in Dublin yester-day that his three-man decom-

missioning body had "not yet made any decisions or reached

any conclusions" on how to resolve the impasse over para-

He was speaking after an hour-long meeting with the

Taoiseach, John Bruton, and the

Irish Foreign Minister, Dick Spring. But Mr Mitchell re-

mained optimistic that the body could complete its report by its target date in the middle of this

Neither side was prepared to

discuss details of their talks, but

Mr Mitchell confirmed he had

received a series of suggestions

Asked about speculation that

the Mitchell body was considering how a new elected as-

sembly in Northern Ireland

might assist political progress,

Mr Bruton declined to say if he

had outlined any formula under

which Dublin might accept such a plan, which is being urged by

Unionist and Alliance parties.

But he stressed his govern-

ment had expressed its willing-

ness to discuss the idea in the Downing Street joint commu-

niqué last month. Mr Bruton

said the matter was one to be

dealt with during the political

track of the talks, rather than

government thought there was

ALAN MURDOCH

military weapons.

and analyses.

don, last Friday resulted in one workers than had been agreed. of the men being dismissed, which then sparked a wildcar

The stoppage spread to two more offices in north-west London and only came to an end when strikers' leaders agreed to a return to work package which involved the introduction of casual staff to clear the backlog.

A fresh walkout ensued on Wednesday however when strikers accused management of

By yesterday the action had spread to other parts of London. although most delivery offices were working, according to

management. The increasing "casualisa-tion" of Royal Mail jobs is the subject of prolonged argument between management and the Communication Workers' Union, which was yesterday at pains to dissociate itself from

the unofficial stoppage.
A spokeswoman for the Royal Mail said the main reason for 3.5 per cent.

the fresh walkout at Cricklewood was that staff wanted overtime for clearing the backlog from the first strike.

The spokeswoman said the strike had only caused patchy disruption and that the union and management were hopeful that the conflict could be brought to a speedy end.

In a ballot result out yesterday, Royal Mail workers throughout Britain voted by nearly five to one to accept an inflation-breaching pay rise of Production at Ford's largest plant, at Dagenham, was disrupted yesterday as parts delivery drivers walked out on unofficial strike.

The stoppage was thought to have been staged in protest at the company's "final" pay offer and comes at a sensitive time for the company. Later this month the Dagenham plant is scheduled to begin production of a Mazda version of the Fiesta. The Japanese company is hop-ing to sell the model almost exclusively outside Britain.

over the pay offer which would yield a 4.75 per cent increase this year followed by 4.5 per cent, or the inflation rate plus 0.5 per cent, next year. The company however rejected a claim for a two-hour reduction in the working week to 37

Meanwhile Charles Golden, chairman and managing direc-tor of Vauxhall, wrote to the company's 7,700 manual workers warning them that their

Ford's 22,000 manual workers are holding a strike ballot rejected a "final" three-year pay offer.

The package includes a 4.5 per cent increase this year and an increase in line with the inflation rate in the two subsequent years. The company has also offered a one-hour cut in

the working week. The Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union has urged its members to accept the proposed settlement, but the Transport and General had

The Independent's circulation also gained in December, when average daily sales were 7,000 better than the same month in 1994. Sales of the Guardian were 3,000 a day lower than in December the

Independent

sales up, Guardian down

Average sales of the

Independent rose by

daily sale in 1994.

13,000 a day to 294,000 last year – a 4,5 per cent

increase over the average

Guardian fell by nearly

4,000 a day on average

according to the official fig.

ures released yesterday by

the Audit Bureau of Circula-

By contrast, sales of the

previous year. The Independent on Sunday enjoyed similar gains last year, with its average circulation rising 4,000 in 1995 to 323,000. Average weekly sales of the Observer fell by 29,000.

Tee

dance

deat

IN BRIEF

Freeze boosted Christmas deaths

The toll of the Christmas freeze was revealed yesterday as official figures showed there were 15,443 deaths in the week ending 5 January after the very cold spell, more than 1,500 than expected for the time of year and a five-year high.

Provisional figures from the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys show pneumonia deaths at 2,253 between 29 December and 5 January compared with 1,429 in the same week in 1994-95. Deaths from flu were up from 4 the same time last year to 27.

A spokeswoman for the OPCS said: "Most of the increase [in deaths] is due to diseases of the respiratory system."

Camelot aids police Police trying to identify a pedes-

trian killed when he was hit by a car contacted the organisers of the National Lettery for help. The victim, killed near Lilley, North Hertfordshire, had no identification with him, but he did have a lottery ticket, traced back to Sainsbury's in Stevenage.

M&S libel writs

Marks & Spencer has issued a writ againsi Granada TV over allegations made in last Mongramme that company products were made at overseas factories which used child labour. The company issued a writ against the News of the World which carried similar allegations

Maxwell jury still out

The jury in the trial of Ian and Kevin Maxwell and Larry Trachtenberg was sent to a hotel for a fifth night after failing to reach verdicts on all the charges

Brief Encounter' clock returns to Waterloo with perfect timing





Changing times: The clock at Waterloo station in central London, a romantic rendezvous for lovers, is back in working order after a major facelift Photograph: Edward Sykes The four-sided clock, immortalised in the 1946 classic Brief Encounter, starring Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson, has kept time at the station since 1922 Photograph: Kobal

Consortium takes directions for first private-finance road

Earlier, Mr Spring said the privately financed road was "no possibility" of nationalists signed yesterday but details of accepting a return to any Storthe deal were kept secret by mont-type body which recreatthe Department of Transport because of "commercial confidentiality". ed the majority Unionist

domination of the minority Catholic community. This had The contract, which is the first been repeatedly voiced by both the SDLP and Sinn Fein. in a Government initiative under the Design, Build, Finance Indeed, after meeting Mr and Operate scheme - scheduled to cost £1bn over three Mitchell, the Sinn Fein president. Gerry Adams, said: 'As far rears - involves the construction of the two-mile Haltwhistle as we are concerned any return by-pass on the A69 and mainto a Stormont Assembly or intenance on the 50-mile road bedeed any variation of the proposals put by David Trimble is tween Newcastle and Carlisle.

The contract has been won by

The contract for Britain's first on the road from the start of the

contract on 1 April until 2026. Motorists will in fact not notice any difference in the way the road is operated and will certainly not be charged for the use of the road. The contractor's income is obtained from "shadow tolls" paid by the Department of Transport, based on the amount of traffic on the road. At present there are between 8,000 and 38,000 vehicles using the road each day and this is estimated to increase to between 10,000 and 57,000 over the next

The Highways Agency, the government agency responsible

companies including two Italian for the motorway and trunk- say that it is an incentive for confirms, which will be responsible road network, has refused to re- tractors to encourage more contractors will receive over the extra income.

30-year period. In briefing papers, the Agency says that the cost of the pass alone would be £9.4m but the Independent has learnt that it will in fact cost almost £20m. Routine maintenance of the 50-mile road would normally cost around £100,000 per year, and full-scale refurbishment around £200,000 per mile. The contractor will be penalised if, for example, the road has to be closed for roadworks or the maintenance standard drops below the required level.

Environmentalists have criticised the scheme because they to make large profits.

Roger Higman, roads cam-paigner for Friends of the Earth criticised the cost, saying: "This is an expensive way of building roads because the contractor has to horrow money at a higher cost than the Government would be able to do." He also criticised the secrecy of the deal: "They are covering up the tact that it's a very expensive way of paying for roads which commits future governments to shelling out a lot of money to 1 contractors for the next 30 years." The contractor, he said, faced little real risk and was set

Heseltine ups stakes in ideological war of words replace parents and teachers

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy efforts to up the ideological ante with Labour yesterday with a speech reiterating that Tony Blair's "stakeholder economy would cut down individual rights in favour of local councils, unions and a regulatory

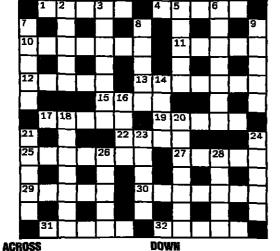
state. Brushing aside dismay among some Tory left-wingers over the claim of a return to 1970s-style union power, an undeterred Mr Heseltine pressed on with accusations that Labour was seeking to

with local authorities in the management of schools and re-establish power for the trade

Labour also wanted to "pe-nalise" company shareholders "through their punitive windfall tax and to reintroduce central control of the utilities through an ever greater extension of the regulatory regime", he said. In an implicit rebuff to

Baroness Thatcher's claim that the Tory party was failing the middle classes, Mr Heseltine declared that "every day the evidence becomes clearer that this Conservative government is achieving its grand purpose". Of defrauding pension funds. The jurors will reconvene today.

merely part of the stalling of this process. It's a non-runner." Road Link, a consortium of six concise crossword No. 2882 Saturday 13 January



4 Uncertainty (5)
10 Primitive wind instrument (7) Son's cousin? (5)

12 Bring to bear (5) 13 Tightly-packed fish (7) 15 Lewd glance (4) 17 No longer colourful (5) 19 Ait (5) 22 Not at home (4) 25 Learned institute (7) Of the nose (5)

29 Muse of lyric poetry (5) 30 Grew narrower (7) 31 Rubber tree 'sap' (5) 32 Cut (5)

23 ... Earp (5) 24 Pass smoothly (5) 26 Eat away (5) 28 Sudden increase (5) Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: Across: 1 Syrup, 4 Tissues (Surreptitious), 8 Felucca, 9 Nadir, 10 Recto, 11 Eardrum, 13 Loll, 15 Nation, 17 Galene, 20 Lead, 22 Dog days, 24 Abbot, 26 Natal, 27 Avarice, 28 Ennoble, 29 Twist, Down: 1 Saffron, 2 Relic, 3 Piccolo, 4 Travel, 5 Sonar, 6 Undergo, 7 Scram, 12 Alga, 14 Only, 16 Tighten, 18 Adamant, 19 Earnest, 21 Escape, 22 Dance, 23 Ad-lib, 25 Haiti

Pointless (5) Scots emblem (7)

Most direct route ... (3-4) ... for one who makes this!

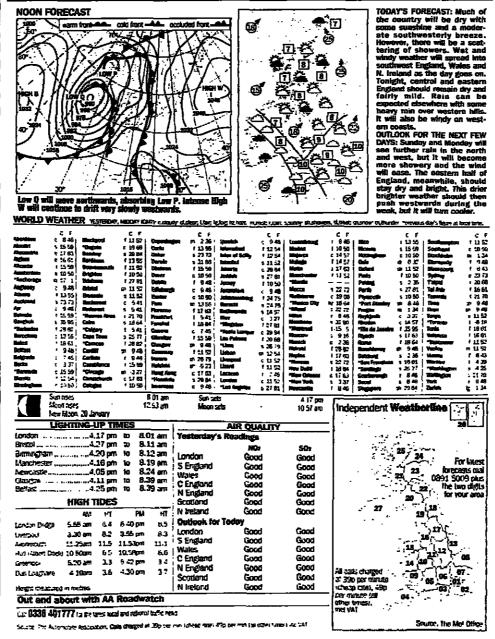
Possessor (5)

Elevate (5) Wigwam (5) Operatic song (4)

Dutch cheese (4) US state (7) 20 Neural connection (7) 21 Humped animal (5)

Notes

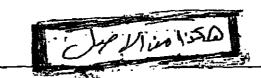
weather





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Man seriously hurt as Volvo plunges 70ft from car park

PETER VICTOR

A driver crashed his Volvo through a barrier vesterday and plunged 70 feet off a multistorey car park.

The man, believed to be in his sixties, was seriously ill in hospital last night after the drop from level four of the five-storey council-run building in Canterbury, Kent.

The maroon M-registered Volvo 440 automatic ploughed into a metal sprung barrier and then over the edge of the building, landing on its roof on concrete below. At first police feared the car had landed on top of another. But it ended up in

area. Its roof was completely caved in and the windows were shattered. The driver was helped out by firemen and taken to the Kent and Canterbury hospital where his condition was said to be serious.

The car landed in the road opposite the Canterbury branch of British Home Stores. The assistant manager, Suzanne Herron, said staff and customers heard a "very large bang". She said: Nobody saw it actually fall, but everyone heard it. Members of the public ran to help and we called the emergency services."

An eyewitness, Julian Hicks. 21, a student from the city, said:

ing is unloaded off a lorry, but I looked out and couldn't believe I was seeing the car falling. It seemed to take forever to reach the ground, but then there was the most almighty crash which reverberated on

Lucy Bright, 32, a shopper who also lives locally said: "People were running to Rose Lane where the car ended up on its back. But the emergency services were there fairly quickly and cordoned the scene off."

Canterbury city council said it had launched an inquiry into the crash at the car park which an empty private car-parking "I just heard what seemed like of the city. A spokeswoman con-

the noise made when scaffold- firmed that the multi-storey car park, which is built from reinforced concrete, was constructed in 1965.

The accident mirrors a Volvo car advertisement where one of its cars plunges from a building and lands without harming the vehicle or its dummy occupant. Kent police said the incident

was being treated as an accident. A police spokesman said: "We do not know what happened, "It appears, somehow, that the car went over the edge and landed on its roof on the floor below. Miraculously the driver survived the crash and has been







Ecstasy's dangers: Coma survivor vows never again as mother urges young to 'say no'

Teenager warns of 'dance with death' drug

IAN Mackinnon

A teenager who spent 24 hours in a coma after taking ecstasy yesterday appealed to young people not to take the drug which she likened to a "dance with death".

Helen Cousins, 19, appeared at a news conference minutes before going for a second operation to rectify the tracheotomy which became necessary after she suffered a relapse

during her recovery.

Barely able to speak above a whisper because of the tube still in her throat, the sales assistant from Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, was asked if she would ever take ecstasy again and

replied: "Never again."
Miss Cousins fell into the coma in the early hours of New Year's Day minutes after she was taken to Peterborough district hospital.

She had taken the drug at a had been taken to a flat shortly after 1am when friends noticed that she was not feeling well.

When her condition continued to deteriorate, her friends called an ambulance and she was taken to the hospital's intensive care unit where she remained for two days.

Doctors believe that her coma had been induced by the seven litres of water she drank in a desperate bid to combat the effects of the drug, which can cause dehydration among those who dance for long periods.

The drug also interferes with

the abilities of the kidneys to get rid of the water and can bring

Yesterday, at the Edith Cavell Hospital, Peterborough, Miss Cousins appeared at the conference flanked by her mother, Janet, 51, and father, Trevor, 47.

Simon Harrison, the hospital's surgical and life support general manager, said that her recovery had been so dramatic that she would probably be released from hospital today after the operation to remove the tracheotomy tube.

Mrs Cousins thanked the doctors for their skill and the public for their support, including Paul and Janet Betts, whose daughter Leah died after taking ecstasy last November.

But Mrs Cousins added her own appeal. I'm pleading to all young people, don't chance your life, it can happen to you. If you take ecstasy it can take nightclub on New Year's Eve, but your life. Nothing is worth that. Don't weaken, be strong and say, 'no'.
"Helen would like to say

that it is when problems like this hit home you realise ecstasy isn't worth the dance with death." ■ Detectives in Stafford yesterday unveiled a haul of lethal fake eestasy tablets worth £1.5m. The 100,000 tablets were found to contain the stimulant ephedrine and the anaesthetic ketamine. A similar batch of tablets, imprinted with a question mark, were found in Birmingham on Tuesday. Police warned the drugs could kill.



Helen Cousins; Spent 24 hours in a coma after taking ecstasy Photograph: Geoff Robinson

Trespass law used against road protest

DANNY PENMAN

The Criminal Justice Act was used against campaigners opposing the Newbury bypass yes-terday after calls for the police to take a harder line. More than 30 people were arrested, mostly for aggravated trespass, dur-

Son's gold

strike has

gold signet ring more than 20

nurse, lost the ring when it

slipped from her finger as she played with her sons and the family's dog in a park in Stran-

raer, Dumfries and Galloway. in 1974. Family members visit-

ed the park every day for a week to search for it but gave up when

Doreen Johnston, a retired

years after she lost it.

JOHN ARLIDGE

ing clashes between protesters

and security guards.
The Aggravated Trespass Provisions of the contentious 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act have rarely been used against anti-road campaigners for fear of inflaming already volatile situations.

Thames Valley and Hampshire police have faced mounting criticism of their tactics. Assistant Chief Constable Ian Blair of Thames Valley Police, who is in overall charge of the operation, has insisted all week that his officers would be strict-

ly "bipartisan".

the road for three days this fore protesters swarmed up the week, prompting calls from politicians, including the MP for Newbury, David Rendel, for the

police to help security guards. Contractors began felling trees at the southern end of the bypass route at dawn yesterday

trees. Sixteen people were arrested. Three miles to the north another crew began clearing trees from a disused railway cutting. Protesters climbed trees and began erecting walkways

and 18 others were arrested.

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY special offer

Buy it half-price tomorrow and read ...

a ring of fortune This coupon when presented A grandmother celebrated yesterday after her son found her

(Home delivery customers have until 11 February 1996 to present this coupon to your newsagent)

Are you a regular loS reader? YES/NO

they found nothing. This year Mrs Johnston's son Robert, 26, began work on a project redeveloping Agnew Park as a tourist attraction. As he dug over the ground earlier this week he spotted some-

thing glittering in the mud. The ring bore Mrs Johnston's initials and after an inspection he realised it must be his mother's. "I really was astonished . . . It was against all odds. I'd have had a better chance of winning the lottery." said Mrs Johnston, 55. "The ring was a gift from my grandfather ... I had completely given up hope of finding it.

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Fears for Britons as troops comb jungle

WILL BENNETT

Indonesia yesterday moved hundreds of commandos into the area where four British biologists have been kidnapped by separatist rebels as fears rose that any military confrontation could put the

captives' lives at risk.

Troops from the Indonesian army's special forces arrived in the Irian Jaya region of New Guinea to try to stop the guer-rillas of the Free Papua Movement (OPM), which is fighting for independence, from taking their prisoners into neighbouring Papua New Guinea.

The four Britons, a Dutch couple, a German and 17 Indonesians were seized in the mountain village of Mapenduma on Monday. They had been working on research projects in a remote jungle area which is home to one of the world's last Stone Age cultures.

The Cambridge graduates Daniel Start, 21, from Lon-don; Bill Oates, 22, from Jedburgh in the Scottish borders; Anna McIvor, 21, from Bournemouth, and Annette van der Kolk, 21, from Fleet, in Hampshire, were researching plant and animal life as part of programme to turn the area

Indonesian army, said that he believed that there was little chance that the rebels would get through the thick jungle to the border, 240 miles from where they captured the hostages.

Greg Roberts, an Australian journalist in New Guinea, said yesterday that the OPM had announced that the hostages were well but that they could not guarantee their safety if Indonesian troops moved in. "Until recently non-

combatants were left alone by the OPM but two recent kidnappings and apparent killings of Indonesians do tend to indicate a major change in direction by the OPM," he said. But David Marfleet, of the Mission Aviation Fellowship,

who spent nine years as a pilot supplying mission stations in Irian Jaya, said he did not believe the Britons were in danger. He added: "My feeling is that [the OPM] are trying to make an international statement to get publicity for their cause." A Foreign Office spokesman

said that two British diplomats had flown to Irian Jaya, where they had spoken to missionaries and local officials. From there one had travelled to the area where the bostages were into a protected national forest. seized to try to get more infor- things occurring without Brigadier General Suwarno mation. After a Foreign Office connection are very high."

Adivijoyo, spokesman for the briefing for the hostages' families in London yesterday Caroline Miller, Mr Start's mother, said: "They earnestly wanted to help the local people through their conservation project. This was always their purpose. They are completely innocent. We wish to see

them again soon, safe and well.

We are very concerned for their

welfare." Indian police in the southern city of Bangalore are still hunting for the killer of a 30-yearold British traveller who was stabbed to death on Tuesday. Police said the victim's 25-yearold British fiancée was also raped that same evening by a

rickshaw driver. The city's deputy police commissioner, Prabir Sood, said that the body of the man, who came from Oxfordshire, was found on Wednesday in a sack thrown into a ditch outside the city. "It was a strange and unfortunate coincidence. There seems to be absolutely no connection between these two terrible events," he said.

However, a spokesman for the British High Commission in New Delhi, said: "We're still awaiting the full police report. Coincidences do happen. But the odds against these two



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Irish set to take nuclear waste fight to Europe

STEPHEN GOODWIN

The Irish government yesterday indicated that it was prepared to pursue Britain through the European and international courts in order to prevent the dumping of nuclear waste beneath the coast of west

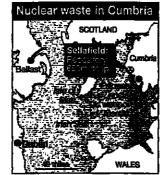
In an unprecedented move Emmet Stagg, the republic's minister of state for energy, registered its fears in a personal appearance at the public inquiry into UK Nirex's plan for a £195m underground laboratory which will test to establish that the rocks are safe enough to hold radioactive waste.

The state-owned nuclearwaste company wants to prove the case for a £2.5bn repository 650 metres deep to take radioactive material from British Nuclear Fuel's Sellafield reprocessing plant on the edge of the Irish Sea.

No minister of a foreign government has ever appeared at a local planning inquiry in Britain, and the arrival of Mr Stagg and his entourage in Mercedes limousines caused quite a stir in the former mining community of Cleator Moor, Cumbria. But Mr Stagg said he needed to "highlight the

concern of his government at a project that will add to the pol-lution of the Irish Sea", adding: "Any radioactive contamination of the Irish Sea simply is not

Mr Stagg released the text of a letter sent to the European Commission complaining of



breaches of community law by Nirex. Whether Dublin pursues_its objections through to the European Court of Justice will depend on the recommendation of the inspector, Chris McDonald, and the ultimate decision of Environment secretary

The Irish contend that the Environmental Impact Statement provided by Nirex is

with insurance

deficient in confining itself to the interim underground laboratory rather than the ultimate

Most of the Irish case was resented by Eli Lauterpacht QC, a professor of interna-tional law, who described the laboratory project as a £500m "Trojan horse". The figure included some £240m already spent on investigations.

The professor said the burden lay with Nirex, and ultimately the British Government, to show there would be no contamination. Nirex's position was rather the reverse", he said. The Irish Sea is seen as a safety device to disperse and dilute the radioactive substances."

After listening to the Irish case, Tom Curtin, head of corporate communications at Nirex, said that the company believed it had met all the requirements of UK and international law. "Much of the Irish case seems to be based on the presumption that the laboratory is a waste dump, which it is not. It is a stand-alone research facility," he insisted.
"We can't know all the answers until we get down there."

The inquiry has been running since 5 September and is due to finish early in February.

don't get bogged down

Schools enrolled in a national Frogwatch



NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

Britain's schoolchildren are being asked to join a scientific est to find out why the nation's frogs and toads are in decline. They will be asked to

the time when spawn, then tadpoles and finally froglets appear in their local ponds – and urged not to fall in themselves.

"Children can provide useful data," said Dr Fred Slater of the National Amphibian Survey, which will be scrutinising their

who don't know what frog Wildlife Trusts. Information

Frogwatch, launched by the environmentalist David Bellamy at Holland Park, in west London, yesterday, is being organised by Wildlife Watch - the

packs are available from BHS department stores; the chain is sponsoring the survey.

There is mounting evidence that amphibian species are in world-wide decline, but scien-

of new viruses, acid rain, hi tat destruction and the absorption of harmful water pollutants such as pesticides through their thin skins, which they breathe through. The numbers of common frogs and common toads still run into millions but are

young people's branch of the natists do not know why. Among still run into tional network of County their hypotheses are the spread falling fast. Ministers in a flap over culling of ruddy ducks

IAN MacKINNON

Ministers were yesterday considering secret advice over the problem of Britain's ruddy duck population after an earlier report urged a large-scale extermination programme.

The proposed trial cull of the pirds, which are threatening the rare Spanish white-headed duck, has been recommended by a government advisory group and would see hundreds of birds shot in the spring

But confidential advice on the natter from English Nature, the Government's statutory advisory body on wildlife, has also been sent to the Department of the Environment.

John Gummer. Secretary of State for the Environment, is still considering the next move despite reports that he had abandoned plans for the cull because of fears of a public outcry on the strength of English Nature's advice.

Ruddy ducks, a North American species which escaped into



The ruddy duck: Threat to

the countryside from captivity in the 1950s, have been flying to Andalusia, in Spain, and mating with the prized whiteheaded duck.

The hybrids are viewed by the Spanish and wildfowl protection groups as unwelcome interlopers and the ruddy duck is shot on sight in Spain.

Under pressure from the

Spanish the Government in 1993 formed a ruddy duck working group, made up of

voluntary conservation organ-isations such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and various civil service departments.

Research showed that it was necessary to control the British population of 3,500 birds if the white-headed ducks, which number just 19,000 world-wide. vere to be saved.

Initial tests revealed that the most effective and costefficient way of tacking the problem was to shoot the birds, a proposition due to be tested glesey in the spring if the Gov-

ernment gives the go-ahead. But a spokesman for the Department of Environment said that no decision had been taken and it would announce one "as soon as possible".

松田 (于)

A spokesman for English Nature declined to disclose what advice they had given. "We have not had any decision from the Government as to whether any form of regional control trial will take place."

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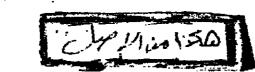
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Ex-miners bare all to strike a handsome seam





LOUISE JURY

The writer Ken Blakeson did not know it, but the plot for his latest comedy-drama was not as outrageous as it seemed.

In The Bare Necessities, to be screened on ITV tonight, five gritty northern miners find new careers as strippers when their pit closes down.

Uproarious scenes with screaming women relishing the troupe's finest efforts were filmed in the Astley and Tyldesley miners' welfare club in Gin Pit village, near Manchester. It was quite a coincidence.

For seven years ago, Rhydian

Lewis was a good-looking local ad who had the idea first. The son and grandson of miners. Rhydian left school at 18 and went down Agecroft colliery at Salford, Manchester. Faced with redundancy after only two years at work, he de-

cided to re-train but found it difficult to survive on a grant. A chance visit with a friend

to a nightclub proved an inspiration. "There were these guys called the Dream Boys strutting their stuff," Rhydian said yesterday. "I'd never seen anything like it. I said to my friend, 'We

can do that'." The Untouchables, a fiveman strippers troupe, were born. "We weren't really like the lads in the film. We weren't strippers, more like the Chippendales," Rhydian said.

Their risque dance routines helped pay his way through col-

lege where he gained a diploma in horticulture. But his two and a half years on the stage gained him an Equity card, an agent and a new career on television and as a model.

He now earns in an hour what he used to earn in a week, and has travelled the world. It was what his coalface colleagues had always encouraged him to do. "They were always telling me to get out and go into

modelling," he said. "Handsome" was how the

Kevin Harris, a 33-year-old pipe fitter, added: "You could men and women at the Gin Pit club remembered him yesterday. "As fit as a butcher's dog," said Margaret Weir, a bar maid. get five lads in here daft enough

Settling down to a sneak preview of the drama, the club members agreed with Rhydian that it captured something of a way of life that is disappearing. "It brought a lot of memories

back about what pit villages used to be like," said Joe Gorringe, 50, a club trustee and miner for 26 years: "Lots of fun and laughter and tragedy."

C&G

Mortgages.

Main photograph: Craig Easton fare club, founded in 1926, the

had 15,000 members but now has fewer than 1,000, though it reto do it, certainly. Dorothy Sharratt, 68, whose mains the soul of the community. Rhydian, now 27 and living home was turned over to the television crews for a week, in London, hated every moment thought the result "smashing. If of his work down the pit but was they had done that here when grateful for having grown up in people were being made resuch a community.

better, wouldn't they?"

"I'm very glad to have been dundant, they would have done a miner. I still have nightmares There are no pits left in the about the pit but I appreciate area now. The last of the five colwhat I have now more," he said. lieries closed in 1993. The wel-"I know what graft is."

year of the General Strike, once

Injured officer questions safety of CS spray

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

A police training instructor who suffered 50 per cent burns from CS spray during trials has warned that it is not properly tested and could cause severe injuries to the public.

The comments by the Metropolitan Police inspector provides further ammunition for civil liberty groups who argue that not enough is known about the spray, which they believe

could lead to deaths.

However, Chief Constables seem determined to press ahead with trials on the spray, which are expected to start among 2.500 officers from 18 forces as early as March. The move is a response to the increasing violent attacks against the police.

The injured inspector, who does not want to be named, told Police Review magazine: "It's obvious there's something wrong with the spray being trialled. I was subjected to a relatively small dose - less than would be used against a suspect in a real-life scenario.

people who get more full in the research is carried out so that face with their eyes open?"
During trials last June the of-

ficer was sprayed under controlled conditions for half a second - the recommended dose. He suffered 50 per cent burns to the cornea of one eye, 40 per cent to the other and burns to his forehead. He was taken to hospital after he collapsed and was in severe pain for several hours. His eyes were covered with patches for five days to allow the burns to heal.

He argued: "Whenever this issue comes up people say I suffered an allergic reaction. Well that's just not true - I was not been contacted for an examination to see if I am someone who is more or less susceptible to this sort of reaction. That is pitiful and unprofessional. There is nothing in my

physical make-up to make me prone to this." ith the spray being trialled. I as subjected to a relatively nall dose – less than would used against a suspect in a al-life scenario.

"If I got burns to my eyes and in the spray used on me was clearly not suitable." It is unclear whether he head from that amount, what intends to take legal action, al-

colleagues can be provided with the hand-held canisters, which

have a range of about 3ft.
Following his experience, planned trials in 18 forces were halted; however, further police research has concluded that incorrect aftercare was primarily at fault rather than the CS itself. Acpo is therefore almost certain to give the go-ahead to new trials in more than one-third of the forces in England and Wales when it meets next week. The Home Office

has already given its support. CS is a white powder that is mixed with aerosol spray and afburnt. Since the incident I have fects the mucus-secreting areas of the face, causing watering

eyes, sneezing, and coughing.

The police inspector also suggested that because of the long after-effects of the spray a suspect could not be questioned for some time once they were arrested. "I suffered shock, and it would have been a nightmare for our procedures if a prisoner was suffering to the extent I was, I am concerned that officers should have the proper equipment to protect themselves. But it must be thorcould be the implications for though he is keen that further oughly researched," he said.

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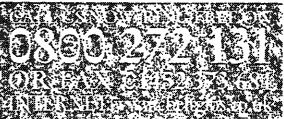
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Bed crisis could split NHS, Labour says

Health Editor

Labour stepped up pressure on the Government yesterday to act on emergency hospital adcrisis would split the NHS.

spokeswoman on health, said that more than one in six NHS in the Commons that the acute beds had been cut since situation was a "matter for 1990 and that 7,664 heds were cut in England last year alone.

In the past 15 years the number of NHS acute hospital beds had fallen by 28 per cent, while private beds had increased by 66 per cent, Ms Harman said. The worst-hit areas were South Thames and West Midlands, where one in five beds had been cut since 1990.

The British Medical Association had carlier called on the Government to rectify the "se- for care. At the same time, more vere and prolonged hed crisis in patients would go private.

the acute sector". The association has anecdotal evidence from around Britain showing that GPs cannot get seriously ill patients into hospital, while casualty departments - which are missions, claiming that the suffering severe staff shortages

risis would split the NHS. - are running at capacity.

Harriet Harman, Labour's Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister. has admitted concern".

Ms Harman said: "The circumstances the BMA described will drive a further wedge of unfairness into the health service and accelerate the development of a two-tier system."

She warned that unless prompt action was taken hospitals would start opening their doors only to emergency cases and the patients of GP fundholders who could pay up front

ernment to require hospitals to give priority to patients on their clinical need and not on the basis of who was purchasing their care. This would mean amending an NHS Executive letter from June 1991 allowing preferential treatment for patients of GP fund-holders in nonurgent cases. If Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, refused to issue a new letter, the Labour Party would draw up its own guidance circular and dis-

Examples of preferential treatment included King's College hospital, in south London, which had held extra sessions for fund-holding practices last year, and Pinderfields Hospitals NHS Trust, in West Yorkshire, which had screened orthopaedic patients on the basis of whether they were from fund-holding practices, she said.

tribute it to hospitals, she said.

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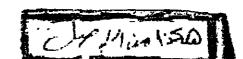
Suddenly, poose James was nothing special. No one wanted to play with him any more. He has even been dropped from the under-10 football tram.

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Art forger's death in Rome a mystery

ANDREW GUMBEL

Eric Hebborn, the English art forger whose work made fools out of dozens of eminent experts and world-ranking galleries in the Sixties and Seventies, became the centre of a sensation of rather different kind yesterday as Italian police launched an investigation into his mysterious death ear-

Hebborn, who was 61, was found lying on the ground with a fractured skull in the early hours of Wednesday morning. following an evening spent drinking with friends near his home in the Trastevere district of central Rome. Despite attempts by doctors to resuscitate him at a number of hospitals, he was reported to have eventual-

on Thursday morning.

The police said yesterday that they were not sure if Hebborn had fallen by himself or had been attacked. They were waiting for the results of a post-mortem examination to decide whether to open a murder inquiry.

Hebborn had lived in Italy for more than 30 years, dividing his

vere and a well-appointed country house in Anticoli Corrado not far from Rome. Having trained as a painter and art restorer, his speciality was either copying or emulating such greats as Piranesi, Picasso, Gainsborough and Van Dyck.

So accomplished did he become that hundreds of his works made their way into public galleries and private collectime between a loft in Traste- tions as supposed Old Masters,

often fooling world experts on particular painters along the way. He claimed his work had made it into the British Museum in London, the New York Metropolitan Museum and the National Gallery in Washington.

Even after he was unmasked in 1979, Hebborn continued to work lucratively, and also wrote an autobiography. Drawn to Trouble: Confessions of a Master Forger along the way.

more beautiful than the original," said Roberto Conforti, head of the Italian police division responsible for the country's artistic heritage and an unabashed fan, "He never gave us any trouble. He used to say:

Instantly recognisable in the street, with his shaggy dark hair and full beard, Hebborn, a

Others paint nature, I paint

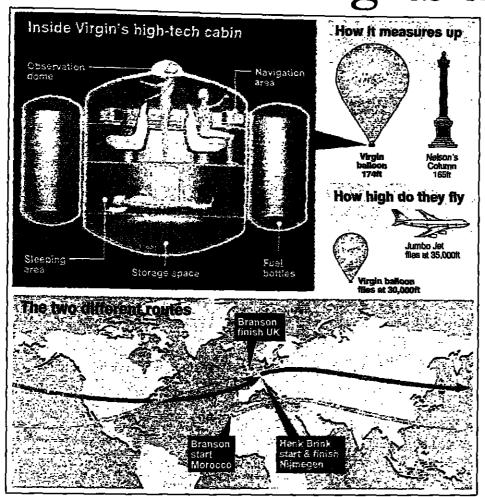
abashed hedonist with a taste for good food and good Italian

Hebborn did not appear to have been mugged since his wallet and credit cards were still on him when he was taken to hospital. One possibility is that he had suffered a stroke. He was known to be in indifferent health at the time of his death. Obituary, page 14



Eric Hebborn: Unmasked

Branson sets sights on breaking last great aviation record



Richard Branson, the Virgin chief, is this weekend finalising his preparations for a race to claim the accolade of being the first to circumnavigate the world propelled only by the

But he may be beaten to his latest world record attempt by a Dutch helicopter pilot.

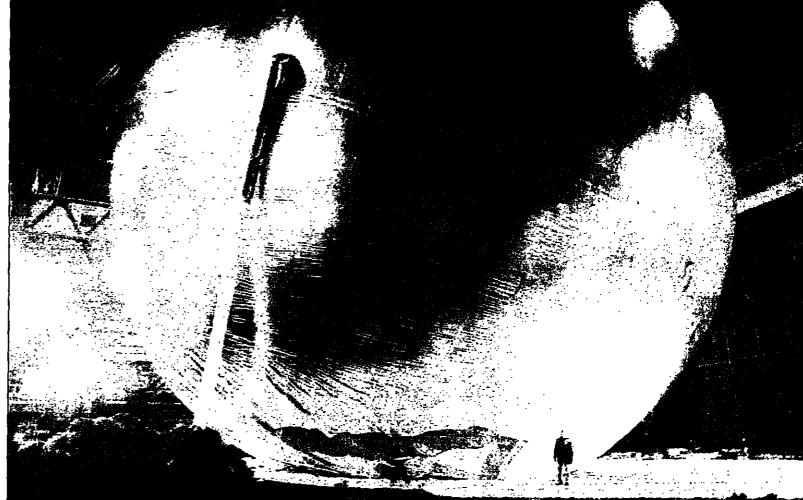
On Wednesday, Mr Branson, the balloonist Per Lindstrand and a business partner, Rory

McCarthy, will set off from Marrakesh, Morocco, in a round-the-world attempt to break the last great aviation record. In the Virgin Global Challenger balloon, they plan to circumnavigate the globe in 18

But Henk Brink, 52, may beat them to it. The Dutchman is planning a global flight in the high-tech Unicef Flyer balloon in an attempt described as "very serious" by the Branson camp. Both he and Mr Branson

have done their homework Both balloons will be fully heated and pressurised allowing access to the 100mph jet streams required to travel.

The two balloons have both been designed by Mr Branson's co-pilot Per Lindstrand. Mr Brink is leaving from the Dutch town of Nijmegen, some time next week, he hopes. A spokesman said: "It is very likely we will have the right conditions next week. Heak will do his utmost to get away first."



Testing time: The Virgin balloon undergoing trials at the Cammell Laird shipyard before Richard Branson's record attempt Photograph: Mercury Press Agency

Mr Branson's spokesman, Will Whitehorn said he initiated the flight after the challenge was laid down by Mr Brink. "Richard's very much hoping it

will be a race," he said. Mr Whitehorn added that the Challenger stood to win the race because of the calmer

ground conditions in Mar-rakesh, and a strong jet stream of 30,000 feet. The 174ft balloon only by the winds 30,000 feet up.

at night and cool during the day. The Challenger will be carried for the venture. British Aero-space has lent him a transport has a unique balloon envelope combined from nylon and Melinex - the silver metallised plastic found on the inside of some crisp packets. Melinex

The 35-tonne balloon was being flown yesterday from Campreparation for Wednesday's support system in November. departure. Mr Branson has also Whatever the outcome, neideparture. Mr Branson has also

enlisted heavyweight back-up aircraft in case of emergencies and Rolls-Royce engineers in mell Laird shipyard on Derby successfully tested the en-Merseyside to Morocco in gine for the balloon's life-Derby successfully tested the en-

ther camp has to worry about an American rival, Steve Fossett, who set off from South Dakota on Monday only to limp back to Canada after crash-landing over the Atlantic, 100 miles into the journey. But for Mr Branson, Mr Brink represents a more serious threat.

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e through, we'll go through it with you. The Samaritans





Battle to hold show fit for the millennium



Field of dreams: Development of the Greenwich site would have to start from scratch

The winner of the fierce competition to host the Millennium Exhibition, an attempt to celebrate the year 2000 with a grand project worthy of the Victorians, will be chosen next

The front-runners have emerged as Greenwich and Birmingham in a battle between London and the regions. They are locked in rivalry for the contract for the year-long event, which could cost up to £200m and will be partly supported by lottery money from the Millennium Commission.

As Britain celebrates the dawn of the new millennium. the exhibition is expected to attract up to 50 million visitors. So far it has emerged as the most ambitious in the world, with the exception of that put forward by the Vatican City, to celebrate the first 2,000 years of Christianity.

The bidders hope to confound critics of the project. who claim it will be an embarrassing shadow of the Great Exhibition of 1851, at Crystal Palace, where the Victorians flaunted the nation's imperial wealth. David Mellor, the former Secretary of State for National Heritage, said from the outset that the Millennium



Existing facilities would be used if the NEC bid succeeds

strong, and it is still one of the world's great cities," said An-

Commission was a "great British disaster in the making." According to supporters of the bid from Greenwich - which is sited on the Meridian - the capital city is the natural home for the celebrations. "The historical resonance of the 1851 exhibition and the Festival of Britain in 1951, which both happened in London, are very

drew Parry, project manager for the site. A powerful consortium, including the MAI Group, led by Lord Hollick, which is part of the successful Channel Five television franchise bid, and M2000, headed by Touche Ross, the management consultancy, is bidding to operate the Greenwich site on the River Thames, in a derelict area beside the Blackwall Tunnel. It is also understood to have the support of Michael Heseltine, a supporter of the redevelopment of east London, who also sits on the

The 130-acre site, owned by British Gas, would create 10,000 jobs, according to the backers, and would bring the Thames back to life. They plan to trans-port visitors by river, as well as by road and rail.

Millennium Commission.

The exhibition bids were submitted to the Millennium Commission last summer. Headed by Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, the commission

will meet this week to make decision.

Birmingham has the support of lottery critics, who say to much money has gone to the capital. A London-based design company. Imagination, pro poses to operate the 40-ha site around the existing Nation Exhibition Centre, and bass. cured a pledge of £50m imestment from the local authority.

The plan incorporates new buildings and parking facilities for more than 50,000 cars h would divide the site into different zones, for exhibitions, estertainment and ecology. "As the only site with the proven expertise, existing infrastructure, capability and commitment to stage an event worthy of the milennium, we are ready and waiting," said the NEC chairman, Robert Burman.

The commission has invited operators to make their plans transferable to other sites if necessary. Derby's Pride Park and Stratford, in east London which have also submitted bids - have not been ruled out.

How the bids compare BIRMINGHAM GREENWICH

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travelling time. Already has extensive parking and experienced staff.

Own train station and airport. Weaknesses Not the capital. Maybe too far for tourists arriving in

London. No sense of history or cultural grandeur surrounding site. Partly dependent on motorway

Does not have support of a very powerful consortium. . . Not within easy reach of Limited parking -

Strengths

In London, where most inter national visitors arrive. Historic and cultural status, with a symbolic edge as the the centre of world time with the Meridian. Already attracts 1.5m visitors

because of other tourist sites including the Cutty Sark Vacant site, ripe for regeneration which would create-ut to 10,000 jobs. -Greenwich North station and Jubilee tube line extensions.

40.5

Contaminated site, which would need capping. No experience of large-scale event management_ Poor road, rail and air access Will infuriate lottery critics.

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Siege mentality: Russian troops manoeuvring a cannon into position outside the village of Pervomayskoye where Chechen rebels are still holding out Chechen rebels free 8 hostages

PHIL REEVES Pervomavskove

The stand-off between Russian forces and a band of Chechen rebels holed up in a border village in Dagestan eased last night with claims by the authorities that the besieged separatists had released eight

It marked the first breakthrough in the three-day deadlock in which the Chechens and more than 100 of their captives have been surrounded in the village of Pervomayskoye by tanks and heavy artillery of the

Russian army.
The rebels had said earlier they were prepared to release 30 women and children in exchange for being guaranteed safe passage into Chechnya. However, it was unclear how many women and children were on Tuesday, and corral 2,000

among the hostages: the Itar-Tass news agency put the number at 26 yesterday before any were released.

The rebels were also said to have offered to release all their hostages on condition that they are accompanied on their journey back to Chechnya by a and heavy guns around the handful of notable Russian politicians - including Grigory Yavlinsky and General Alexander Lebed, both presidential candidates, and the reformer Yegor Gaidar. Mr Yavlinsky and Mr Gaidar apparently agreed but not Gen Lebed.

This glimmer of hope - albeit faint - concluded another day of tension in this remote patch of southern Russia, where many are furning over the Chechens' decision to cross the border of their breakaway republic, enter the Dagestan town of Kizlyar hostages inside a hospital. Yesterday Russian helicopter gunships continued to swoop menacingly over the Chechens and their remaining captives who include 37 Ministry of Interior policemen - as the Russian Army manoeuvred its tanks dead flat, frozen landscape.

The Russians have tightened security around the besieged village after several correspondents, including the Independent, walked in on Thursday and interviewed Salman Raduyev, the rebels' leader.

In Sovietskoye, the nearest village, an armoured vehicle blocked the road leading to the rebels' stronghold, much to the irritation of about 100 Dagestani men who had assembled at the edge of this potential battleground both out of curiosity and to rail against the rebels.

They were quick to point out that they have played host to tens of thousands of Chechen refugees who have fled from their homeland to this impoverished Russian republic over the last year to escape Chechnya's nasty little war. That Chechens should now be holding their Islamic neighbours hostage is seen here as tantamount to treason.

At the tiny farming village's edge hangs a Soviet-era sign bearing a picture of Lenin. The motif says: "Dearest of all to us is the preservation of peace". If the local people, the Avars, ever believed this sentiment – and in the troubled Caucasus that seems unlikely - then their faith has now been shattered.

Yesterday the women and children of Sovietskoye were evacuated on the orders of local elders who feared they could

be caught in stray fire from Chechen rebels or Russian guns. They were despatched to stav with relatives, leaving their men to wander bewildered among the cattle, geese and chickens who rule the muddy lanes. From time to time, deer booms rumbled across the landscape - evidence that the Russians have yet to tire of bombing Chechens over the nearby

Nor are the Avars the only ones among Dagestan's jumble of peoples to be damaged by this crisis Chechens living in Dages-tan have condemned the hostage-taking as an act of ter-rorism. They held a meeting in Khasavyurt, a town 10 miles from the scene of the crisis, and decided to despatch two busloads of Chechen men and women as volunteers to replace the hostages.

It is an offer that Mr Raduyev and his men seem certain to refuse, if they are ever offered the opportunity to consider it. The Russians have shown little compunction in attacking Chechen civilians in the past.

"I am 100 per cent certain that if the hostages are Chechens the Russian authorities will utterly destroy them," said Zaidni Abluyev, the editor of Khasavyurt's Chechenlanguage newspaper.

Moscow, Medvedev, the spokesman for President Boris Yeltsin, said the Kremlin leader was being fully briefed, "Yeltsin receives hourly reports," Mr Medvedev said. "All developments are immediately reported to him. Mr Yeltsin faces a difficult decision over whether to use force to end a crisis that could affect his hopes of re-election in June. Mr Primakov's comments

Primakov soothes West but looks east

HELEN WOMACK Moscow

Russia's new Foreign Minister. Yevgeny Primakov, yesterday gave a finely-balanced performance at his first meeting with the press since President Boris Yeltsin appointed him to replace

Andrei Kozyrev. Russia was a "great power" and he would make it his priority to serve its interests, he said in comments likely to warm the hearts of Communists and nationalists who criticised Mr Kozyrev for being too compli-ant towards the West. But Mr Primakov went on to say that friendly ties with the West need not suffer because of this and certainly there would be no return to Cold War hostility.

"We are a great power and our policy must reflect our sta-tus. Mr Primakov told the packed press conference. "I consider it my main task to step up the Foreign Ministry's work in defending Russia's national interests. But I don't think that will contradict the development of ties with the United States."

While continuing to co-operate with the West, Russia would pay attention to relations with important neighbours to the East, such as China and Japan, and with traditional partners in the Middle East, which have lapsed somewhat since the collapse of Communism.

Moscow also needed to strengthen ties with the "near abroad", the now-independent republics of the former Soviet Union, he said.

Russia would oppose the eastward expansion of Nato, he said - Moscow has already made it clear it does not want to see former Warsaw Pact states such as Poland and Hungary joining the Western al-liance. But there would be no return to the Cold War, Mr Primakov assured the West.

Earlier this week, when introducing his new man to the Foreign Ministry. President Yeltsin said the West should concern itself not with the personalities of Russian politicians but with the country's policies - and there would be no change in Moscow's foreign policy.

confirmed there was no U-turn now. The change towards a more assertive stance took place many months ago when Mr Kozyrev was still in office. Initially friendly to the West, Mr Kozyrev was using more nationalistic rhetoric towards the end of his term.

The appointment of Mr Primakov, 66, was politely welcomed in Washington but privately US diplomats expressed concern, saying he was conservative. Such labels are, however, misleading in today's Russia and whether Mr Primakey will turn out to be more conservative than Mr Kozyrev remains to be seen. In any case, it is President Yeltsin who sets the country's foreign poli-



defend Russia's interests

cy. The Foreign Minister only

carries it out. US worries about Mr Primakov, formerly a journalist on the old Communist Party newspaper Pravda, were partly based on the fact that his last job was as head Russia's foreign intelligence service. But Mr Primakov was not a life-long secret policeman. He was made spy chief when the old KGB split up after the failed hard-line coup of 1991 and at the time eyebrows were raised because he had no KGB background.

American diplomats also remembered that Mr Primakov had been "unhelpful" to Washington's interests when, as a troubleshooter for the former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. he made a last-ditch attempt to negotiate with Saddam Hussein and prevent the Gulf war.

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Mass grave in Bosnia may hold 8,000 bodies

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

British forces in Bosnia were last night keeping an eye on a vast, waterlogged open-cast iron ore mine in north-west Bosnia after allegations that thousands of bodies might be buried there.

The British troops, responsible for the area under Nato's Implementation Force (I-For), have contacted the international war crimes tribunal representative in Sarajevo.

The tribunal is to send a team to investigate the mine at Ljubija, south-west of Prijedor, "in the near future". But although the British troops will report said yesterday their job is to keep the warring sides apart, not to go looking for war crimes or

Ljubija is in Serb-held terri-

suggesting any bodies found there are those of Muslims or Croats. It is now the base for the 2nd Battalion, the Light Infantry, which may have to guard the war crimes team if local Serbs oppose an investigation.

A report in the New York
Times yesterday quoted a
British officer as saying that
troops in the region often come across bodies.

Zvonimir Cicak, of the Croa-

tian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, said: "There were a lot of killings in Ljubija. We think there may be as many as 8,000 bodies in the mine. We have eyewitness testimony from people who saw anything they find to him, they the bodies. On top of the bodies they dumped lime. This is probably the largest mass grave in Serb-held Bosnia."

A spokesman at the British headquarters in Gornji Vakuf tory which will remain Serb under the Dayton peace deal, report," but he added: "We

are reminding people that our first aim is to deal with the mil-itary aspects of the cease-fire." Ljubija lies close to the front

line reached by Croat and Muslim forces during their rapid ad-vance in September, which led directly to the Dayton agreement. The report of large num-bers of bodies in the mine almost certainly refers to peo-ple killed in the summer of 1992. There were persistent reports at the time of bodies being

dropped down mineshafts. In Geneva an official of the war crimes tribunal said it has long been aware of allegations that Bosnian Serbs have been hiding bodies in mineshafts. The deputy prosecutor, Graham Blewitt, said the tribunal believed gaining access to this region was one of its main pri-

Mr Blewitt said Serbia was not co-operating with the tri-

If it did not, he warned, the tri-bunal could complain to the UN Security Council that Belgrade was in "non-compliance" with the agreement, which diplomats say could be grounds for

reimposing UN sanctions.
The British units in the area are patrolling both sides of the former front line, and negotiating with the local forces to get them to withdraw from the 4km "zone of separation". Part of the area patrolled by the British is now held by Bosnian Croats, but is to be handed back to the Bosnian Serbs.

■ Sarajevo — Bosnian Serbs lift-ed a threat to flee Sarajevo yesterday despite a rejection by the Nato secretary-general, Javier Solana, of their plea to delay the transfer of their suburbs to the government. About 70,000 Serbs were said to be ready to evacuate the city and burn their houses unless Nato delayed the



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Balkan war is test site for US hi-tech planes

The US is using the Nato operation in Bosnia to continue tests of a high-altitude surveillance aircraft which has not been used in action since the Gulf war five years ago, writes Christopher Bellamy.

The device may be used to monitor the withdrawal of troops from areas to be handed over under the Dayton peace

The Joint Surveillance Target and Attack Radar System, or "Jstars". produced the spec-tacular radar images of the Gulf war battlefield which showed Iraqi forces streaming northwards towards the Euphrates, the first time a great battle unfolding had been captured in entirety in pictures.

The US is continuing to test two Jstars planes over the much more difficult landscape of Bosnia, with it steep valleys, mountains and forest, the ultimate test of the system.

The use of Istars over Bosnia tage. The US has been trying to sell Istars to Nato for years. Using Jstars over Bosnia as part of the Nato operation, Joint En-deavour, will be a strong selling

The alternatives are a British system, called Astor (Airborne Stand-Off Radar), the French Horizon, or the Italian Creso. Jstars and Astor are the only systems capable of monitoring an entire theatre of operations. but is not yet even in the

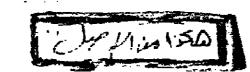
Jstars would be used to monitor "vehicle-type movements", in Bosnia. Under the Daylor. agreement. Bosnian Serb. Muslim and Croat forces are to withdraw from areas to be transferred other parties by 3 February. The new owners are to occupy them by 20 March.

Jstars can look out to a range of 200 nautical miles, so it can stay outside the range of surface-to-air missiles. It even has a memory to keep track of strings of vehicles and wait for them to reappear out of a valley or from behind a mountain.

"If a convoy disappears it will alert you." a Northrop Grumann official said. "It has a memory. It knows where to look." Two of the E-8 Jstars aircraft - converted Boeing 707s - left the testing grounds of Northrop-Grumann in Melbourne. Florida, for Bosnia on Force has a requirement for 20 the next 10 years at a total cost of \$5bn (£3.2bn) to \$7bn.

Jstars can receive pictures from E-3 Airborne Warning And Control System (Awars) aircraft. Istars will therefore be used to home in on contacts, forpicked up by Awacs, as well as for closer analysis of events on





early poll as Dini finally resigns

ANDREW GUMBEL

Italy was plunged into a hazardous and uncertain govern-ment crisis yesterday after the resignation of Lamberto Dini and his team of technocratic ministers. Mr Dini reluctantly handed in his resignation as Prime Minister on Thursday night, having failed to persuade a fractious parliament to let him stay while it mapped out a smooth path to take Italy through its six-month presidency of the European Union and prepare calmly for a general election

Although he acknowledged that his government's limited mandate was over, Mr Dini warned fervently against a "crisis in the dark". After three days of fruitless debate in the Chamber of Deputies, though, a crisis in the dark is exactly what Italy now has to face.

t site for h

tech plans

On Monday, President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro will begin exploratory talks with the speak-



Dini: In the end, he was

ers of the two houses of parliament and with leaders of all political parties to see if a new government with a coherent programme can somehow

be cobbled together. If the President fails, he will have no choice but to dissolve parliament and call elections an option he and the centre-left have resisted because there is no guarantee that the political lance in a new parlia be any clearer than in the present one.

This is exactly the kind of mess Italy had hoped to avoid at the beginning of its EU presidency. The crisis is almost certain still to be hanging over the country when it hosts the crucial Inter-Governmental Conference in March. And if there are elections, Italy will be continuing an inglorious tradition already experienced Italy could be about to break its by France and Germany own record.

during their recent presidencies. Is there any prospect of salvaging the mess? If a new government can be formed, the most likely scenario is another Dini-led administration, but this time with "political" ministers drawn from all sides with a mandate to carry out institutional reforms. These would include a new electoral law more likely to produce a workable governing majority when the

country next goes to the polls.
The chances of finding the cross-party agreement needed for such a government, though, seem dim indeed. Italy has never managed to pass a single amendment to its 1948 constitution despite several abortive attempts. Moreover, the aims of the country's two main political blocks are diametrically op-posed: the centre-left simply wants to introduce a two-round voting system, while the centre-right wants to transform the country's whole style of government and invest far greater

powers in the prime minister. Italy's inability to stabilise its spectacle veering between tragedy and high farce. Ever since the collapse of the old Christian Democrat-led order in 1992, there have been endless promises of sweeping change but precious little evidence of it. The media magnate Silvio Berlusconi claimed to have founded a "Second Republic" when he swept to pow-er in March 1994, but his incongruous conservative coalition, supported by former neofascists on one side and northern separatists on the other, collapsed under the weight of its own contradictions after just seven months.

Mr Dini's government, voted in one year ago, was supposed to be a stopgap giving the country time to rethink its political system once again. Although he proved a competent technician, making the first significant cuts for years in Italy's runaway public deficit, the very longevity of his government attested to the country's inability to find a way out of the impasse.

The present crisis - sparked by the death of postwar government number 54 - has all the halimarks of the bad old days, when political instability allowed terrorism, organised crime and corruption to get the better of the system. The longest crisis ever, in 1979, lasted five months. It is not beyond the realms of possibility that

Italy faces | Leftist set to succeed grand old 'king' of Portugal



political system has become a | Left's choice: Jorge Sampaio being carried by supporters at a presidential election rally

ELIZABETH NASH

The campaign for tomorrow's presidential elections has reflected the general mood of the Portuguese people: laid-back for the most part, interrupted by bursts of agitation. Torrential rainstorms, the worst in more than 60 years, have jolted people's lives more than the election campaign, though passions flared in the closing days.

All but two contenders pulled out of the race this week, so tomorrow will see a straight fight between the mild Socialist former mayor of Lisbon, Jorge Sampaio, and the conservative former prime minister. Anibal

Cavaco Silva. Mr Cavaco is better known, having led a 10-year conservative government before the Socialist election win last year. But Mr Sampaio is favourite to suc-ceed Mario Soares, who bows out after the maximum 10 years as president during which he became Portugal's most loved and respected politician. Should Mr Sampaio win, the

Socialists would control the presidency, parliament and the big cities. He has been consistently ahead and the latest poll gives him the support of 53.1 per cent of voters, 13.2 per cent ahead of his rival (though an carlier poll put him only four points ahead.

Lisbon seems almost bare of election posters, in contrast to the hectic campaign of last October when a Socialist victory marked a political turn-around. Sceptics point out that the government has delayed an- more easy-going style.

Photograph: AP

nouncing a stringent budget until tomorrow's contest is out of the way, to give Mr Sampaio

a fair wind. The presidency is more than just ceremonial. The president can dissolve parliament if the government runs into difficul-ties, an important consideration with the Socialists four votes

can delay legislation. The post is non-partisan; the Socialist Mr Soares succeeded so brilliantly in recycling himself as leader of all Portuguese that he is affectionately dubbed The King".

short of an overall majority, and

The two candidates cannot, therefore, offer policy options. Mr Cavaco went so far as to hand in his Social Democratic Party card. They can only undertake a charm offensive to convince voters of their personal suitability. Neither is particularly charismatic, but as one observer noted yesterday: "Sampaio is more enigmatic, so people have less against him.

But party politicking is bare-ly veiled. Mr Sampaio, while urging consensus, says a new age has dawned and suggests that voters have already thrown out everything Mr Cavaco represents. Mr Cavaco stresses his experience and his Catholicism swipes at Mr Sampaio, who has never held national office and is both atheist and Jewish.

Mr Cavaco's message and his austere manner go down well in the conservative. Catholic northern part of the country. But they seem at odds with a broad trend towards moderate change, and Mr Sampaio's

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Clintons' credit is good long-term bet Cocaine jailbreak

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

Mercifully, Bill Clinton has never been too concerned about money. Whitewater and the squalid Paula Jones sexual harassment suit are not only political and personal embarrassments for America's 42nd President. They are also, on paper at least, bankrupting him.
Do the sums, like Money

Magazine has done in its latest issue, and they are grim. When they came to office the Clintons

The couple do not own a proper home. Mr Clinton's salary as Arkansas Governor was only \$35,000 (£23,000) and in fact the main family breadwinner was Hillary Clinton, thanks to her partnership in the Rose law firm of Little Rock - and of course that mysterious £100,000 windfall on the cattle futures market in 1978 and 1979.

Now the First Family is embroiled on two legal fronts, for which the bill is currently estimated at \$2m, and climbing. The Clintons are not allowed to tap campaign or party funds. A legal defence fund was set up in star hotel" - but no one be-

1994 to collect contributions. But it may not advertise or otherwise solicit for money, and it has thus far gathered only

Nor does a President's salary greatly help. Mr Clinton earns \$200,000 (\$130,000 after taxes) a year, while his wife receives nothing for being First Lady. She cannot work as a lawyer, while royalties from her new book on children, It Takes a Village, are going to charity. The job perks of course are huge -Ronald Reagan once described the White House as "an eight-

creditors called in their debts to- are not insisting on immediate day, the President would be in queer street. On Thursday, he admitted that, on paper, he was heading for bankruptcy.

In fact, his financial predicament is nowhere near as bad as it looks. If the First Family were a listed company, a broker's advice to his client almost certainly would be: short-term prospects dicey, but in the long-

term a pretty sure bet.

Take the legal bills. As is common in such cases, the firms representing the Clintons in Whitewater and for Mr Clinton

comes rich there. If the Clintons' in the sexual harassment charge in 1997 or 2001, should be resettlement of their fees, running at \$350 to \$400 an hour for lead attorneys. That removes any risk of sudden bankruptcy.

Assuming neither the President nor the First Lady is indicted (and the special Whitewater prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, has indicated that on current evidence that is unlikely), the Clintons' legal costs for Whitewater should be reimbursed by the Government -

in other words the taxpayer. And whatever happens, life after the White House, starting

munerative. Mrs Clinton, onœ voted one of America's 100 best lawyers, will be able to resume a lucrative legal career. As for her husband, his memoirs will be worth millions. Another fortune awaits on the lecture circuit, where speakers such as Colin Powell earn \$50,000 a time. Even if he wins a second

he leaves office. The real squeeze is on the smaller fry caught up in the Whitewater net, often merely out of loyalty to their masters. The President spoke of them at

his press conference this week, "the innocent people who don't have particularly high salaries and don't have the net worth that we brought here, who had to hire lawyers and pay legal fees

These individuals too should be reimbursed assuming they are not indicted. But that will not make good the strain and worry of a legal and public term, he will be only 54 when ordeal for which they are not responsible. Their salaries rarely exceed \$100,000 for even the most senior aides, and often are substantially less. And who will buy their memoirs?

Bogota

PHIL DAVISON Latin America Correspondent

Jose Santacruz Londono, alias "The Student" and alleged number three man in the Can cocaine cartel, calmly unscrewed the one-way mirror from his prison interrogation room, climbed through into the empty viewing room and out to a waiting getaway vehicle in the prison yard.

The guards at Bogota's maximum security La Picota prison politely waved the vehicle through. Its occupants had earlier flashed identity documents from the Attorney-General's office, and a similar vehicle had brought bona-fide government interrogators to the jail

earlier in the day. arner in the day.
Thursday's cool escape was the biggest setback for President Ernesto Samper since his police and troops detained Santacruz and five other alleged leaders of the Cali cartel in a three-

month sweep last summer. The smooth way in which Santacruz, 53, pulled off the escape from what is supposed to be the most secure prison in the nation stunned Colombians and infuriated US diplomats and anti-narcotics agents who have long suspected that the cartel's tentacles reach to "the highest levels of government". A US diplomat said: "There's some

thing rotten here." To make matters worse, Santacruz escaped almost at the moment a new Justice Minister Carlos Medellin, was sworn in and was promising swift trials for the alleged cartel bosses. Colonel Norberto Pelaez, director of the national prison system, has resigned.

The escape could hardly have come at a worse time for Mr Samper, who has been accused by his former campaign manager of accepting cocaine money from the Cali cartel while campaigning in 1994. The President insists any such money came in without his knowledge but pells show most Colombians do not believe him.

Colombian police are offering a S2m (£1.3m) reward for Santacruz's recapture.



The godfather of soul, James Brown, with a friend at the funeral in Hollywood Hills of his wife, Adrienne, 47, who

California's right sells crown jewels

TIM CORNWELL

Willie Brown, who ruled the California state assembly for 14 years, was crowned Democrat mayor of San Francisco this week. As choirs carolled at his inauguration ceremony and newspapers speculated which of his many Italian suits he would wear, Mr Brown, in a characteristic display of arm-twisting, persuaded 75 of the city's best restaurants to distribute free meals to the homeless.

In Sacramento, two hours' drive away, the Republicans, who now control the assembly for the first time in 25 years, were dismantling his former seat of power. The new Speaker, Curt Pringle, a former drap-ery salesman, said he would sell Mr Brown's Cadillacs, "the three crown jewels of the imperial speakership"; he would confine himself to a state-issued

The Republicans won a slim victory a year ago but the irrepressible Mr Brown, even as he geared up for the San Francisco mayoral race, persuaded two moderate Republicans in succession to jilt their party and take the Speaker's chair themselves with Democrat support. Only when he left the scene could the Republicans unite and elect Mr Pringle to the second most powerful post in California after the governorship. told President Bill Clinton, who had called from wintry Washington to congratulate him in front of cheering crowds: "You should be here with us today. It is just incredible. There is no snow and no Republicans.

The city is the centre of northern California's liberal Democratic heartland. Mr



Willie Brown: Former edifice of power is being dismantled

Brown, the son of a maid and a station porter and who is black, excelled at milking corporate political donors in his 31 years in the assembly.

Long divorced, he is reported to lead a romantic life, in keeping with his flamboyant persona. In post-election interviews Mr Pringle spoke of tightening divorce laws to strengthen the family. He hails from stretches of southern Cal-In San Francisco, Mr Brown ifornia in Orange County and

San Diego that are solidly conservative and mostly white and da of deregulation, tax cuts, school choice and an end to state-funded abortions.

Recent laws will make Mr Brown's reign impossible to re-peat: Mr Pringle must leave

office in two years' time. The Republicans' first efforts included corporal punishment for graffiti vandals. A bill once blocked by Democrats but now passed out of committee would allow a judge to order a parent or bailiff to whack juveniles up to 10 times with a wooden paddle; teachers and civil-rights groups are furious. Meanwhile, hundreds of bik-

ers converged on the state capitol building as Republicans on their first day of business voted to repeal a law requiring helmets. Though the law was credited with cutting motorcycle deaths by 45 per cent, it was a personal-liberty issue dear to the party's right.

The Republicans won office on the first anniversary of Newt Gingrich's inauguration as Speaker of the House of Representatives in Washington and, like him, they are intent on action after years in the wilderness. Though they must still deal with a Democrat-run state Senate, they dismissed an array of long-time committee staffers and brought former governor Ronald Reagan's portrait back to the Senate.

died while recuperating from cosmetic surgery. Among the mourners (right) was Little Richard US spares Internet code-master

CHARLES ARTHUR Science Correspondent

After three years' investigation, a US district attorney has decided not to prosecute Philip Zimmermann, who wrote a piece of encryption software now widely used in cyberspace to keep messages secret.

It is so effective that the US classifies it as a munition and bans its export without a licence. the penalty for which is a maximum jail term of 51 months.

Mr Zimmermann, to whom the decision was faxed on Monday, said he was "ecstatic". Internet users adopted his

sages and files uncrackable and available on the Internet. to give their public messages a unique electronic "s

The decision could help US companies which have been urging the government to let them compete with rivals already selling encryption packages like PGP. Washington had resisted their calls but wide availability of a free uncrackable encryption program will make

their case hard to deny. Mr Zimmermann was never charged but had been under investigation since 1993 by Michael Yamaguchi, US district

ogram, Pretty Good Privacy attorney in San Francisco, after tems. It starts from two large (PGP), to make private mes- copies of PGP became widely

It was copied to the Internet wa friend of Mr Zimmermann who sent it to computer bulletin boards from his laptop over public payphones. Almost simultaneously, it was rumoured that the US government would soon outlaw such "strong encryption". However, Mr Yamaguchi said he would not be prosecuting any individuals fol-

owing the investigation. PGP uses a technique that is easy to perform with a standard with even the most powerful sysprime numbers, which are used to produce the "public" and "private" keys. Each program renerates his or her ow pair of keys and then makes the public key available to anyone. To encrypt a message the sender uses his private key and the receiver's public key.

The message can only be decrypted by the intended receiver. To an interceptor, such as a US government official, the content is a meaningless jumble of numbers. However, there have been claims that though PC, yet impossible to crack PGP can have positive uses, it also appeals to criminals.



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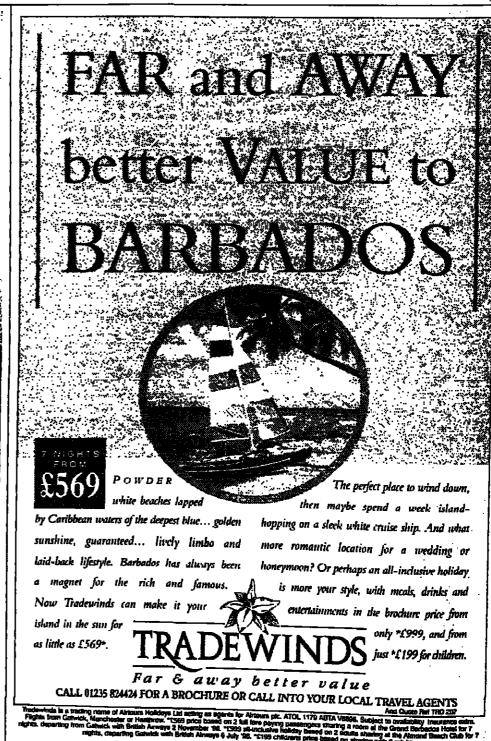
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Korean leader faces £180m bribes charge

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY Tokyo

The political scandal engulfing South Korea escalated yesterday when the former president Chun Doo Hwan, who already faces trial for treason, was charged with accepting millions of dollars of bribes from Korea's biggest corporations, including Daewoo, Samsung and

Mr Chun, who is in hospital following a 26-day prison hunger strike, was charged with illegally accepting 216bn won (£178m) during his eight years in office. Five of his aides, including a former finance minister, a government tax administrator and a retired intelligence chief, were accused of during the investigation is £2.4m handling the bribes, described by the public prosecutor as an Air Lines in return for drop-"corruption among the powerful which is unprecedented in our constitutional history."

The scale of the alleged misconduct is staggering, rivalling even that of Roh Tae Woo, Mr Chun's successor as president.
Mr Roh appeared in court last
of Mr Roh in 1987 and parliamonth charged with receiving

maintained by the two men. In Mr Roh's case, this is believed to be £415m. According to state prosecutors, Mr Chun has admitted amassing almost £570m from 42 companies, equivalent to 1.5 per cent of South Korea's Gross National Product for

1980, when he came to power as leader of a military coup. Individual bribes ranged from £160,000 to £17.5m, presented routinely in exchange for government contracts for nuclear power plants, dams, highways, defence procurement, public buildings and rural development programmes.

Among the items uncovered

allegedly received from Koreping penalties connected with the Flight 007 tragedy in 1983, when a Korean jet was shot down by the Soviet air force. The money is believed to have been spent on financing the mentary elections in 1988 and

£230m. But these sums represent only a small proportion of the secret political slush funds

1992. Even after leaving office in 1988, Mr Chun held on to £130m dispersed in property, bonds, and hundreds of bank accounts held under false names.

Yesterday's charges represent the latest stage in an extraordinary historical purge that has electrified South Korea. After a disastrous year, during which his personal support plummeted, President Kim Young Sam gave in to popular pressure to investigate his predecessors, former generals who introduced democracy after more than three decades of authoritarianism.

Mr Chun's slush fund was first exposed soon after he left office. But after a grovelling public apology, and two years of self-imposed seclusion in a monastery, he appeared to have weathered the scandal. When Mr Roh attempted the same ploy, however, public outrage forced President Kim to reopen the investigation. First, Mr Roh was arrested for corruption and, in December, Mr Chun was held on treason charges related to the 1979 coup.

Further indictments are expected to follow, concerning the massacre of student demonstrators in the city of Kwangiu the following year. Prosecutors announced this week that they intend to excavate several sites where the bodies of those killed by the army are believed to have been dumped. The corruption charges carry a sentence of up to life imprisonment; treason is a capital charge, although the death sentence is unlikely to be

The timetable of Mr Chun's trial is unclear; he is recovering from his hunger strike, and the picture may be complicated by allegations concerning ties between the slush funds and President Kim. As the approved successor of the two generals, Mr Kim is believed to have received portions of the dirty money to fund his own election. In his New Year address, the

President made vague reference to his past "wrong practices". But he insisted that he had "never received a single won that came with strings attached or that was attached to any business interest".



Spent force: Former president Chun on his arrest in December last year on treason charges

IN BRIEF

Spanish court bails 'dirty war' minister

Madrid - The Supreme Court imposed bail on ex-interior minister Jose Barrionuevo yesterday and barred him from leaving Spain, bringing charges of a "dirty war" on Basque rebels another step closer to the Prime Minister, Felipe Gonzalez.

Barrionuevo, Mr Gonzalez's interior minister in 1982-88, was ordered to post bail of 15 million pesetas (£80,000). "He is now presumed guilty rather than presumed innocent, and he will have to stand trial," said Segundo Marey, a French businessman mistaken for a Basque Eta guerrilla and kidnapped in 1983 in a case at the root of charges facing Mr Barrionuevo.

US bombing suspects plead innocent

Reno, Nevada - Two men pleaded innocent to charges that they planted a powerful bomb outside an Internal Revenue Service building on 18 December to avenge grudges against the federal tax collection agency. Joseph Bailie, 40, and Ellis Hurst, 52, entered their pleas during a brief court appearance on Thursday.

Trial is scheduled for 4 March.

Mexican MPs attack free market policies

Mexico City - In an unprecedented move, 255 legislators from President Ernesto Zedillo's party attacked Mexico's free-market policies, demanding a bigger role for the government but criticising government "technocrats" for hurting the poor. In a letter to the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) president, Santiago Onate Labourde, the deputies urged "growth and balanced development with actions directed towards the least protected

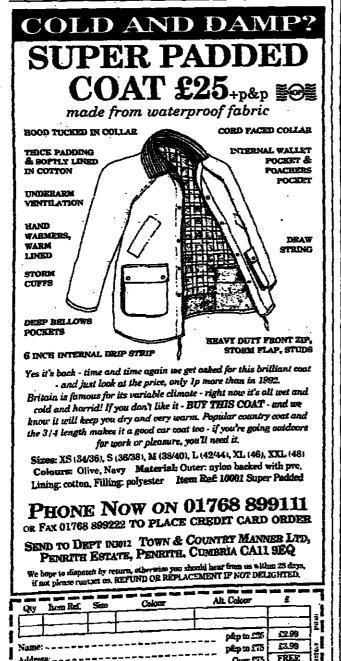
Corsican separatists call truce

Ajaccio - A hard-line Corsican separatist group called a threemouth truce in a guerrilla bombing campaign that has shaken the French island in recent weeks. A spokesman for the "Historical Wing" of the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC) said the group hoped the truce would lead to negotiations about granting the island greater autonomy.

Panchen Lama urged to back patriotism

Peking - President Jiang Zemín met China's official Panchen Lama and urged the six-year-old boy. Gyaincain Norbu, to defend patriotism in Tibet. His enthronement aroused controversy because it superseded the Dalai Lama's choice of another boy, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, as the reincarnated Panchen Lama. Tibetan Buddhism's second-highest monk.

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Eric Hebborn

Eric Hebborn was the most successful art forger this century. sario ("A Faker's Manual"), for By his own account he passed off some 1,000 paintings and drawings, predominantly Old Masters, to galleries worldwide ranging from the British Museum in London to the National Gallery in Washington, the Pierpont Morgan Gallery in New York and the National Museum in Copenhagen. Art experts and historians, the dealers Colnaghi's and the auctioneers Sotheby's and Christie's, the vehicles of his deception, were all taken in by his work.

It was not until 1978, 15 years after he had started on his forging career, that he was exposed, by the journalist Geraldine Norman. And it was not until 1991, when he published his teasing autobiography Drawn to Trouble: the forging of an artist, that Hebborn himself admitted to his history. He was born in 1934, the son

of a grocer's assistant, in South Kensington, London, but brought up, to his chagrin, in Essex. At the age of eight he burnt down his school and was sent to Borstal. He was then put to foster parents and at 15 won a place from Maldon's Secondary School to Chelmsford Art School; from there he went to Waithamstow Art School, which made more of a speciality in painting, and in 1956 he graduated to the Royal Academy Art Schools, where he won the Silver Medal for painting and a Rome Scholarship in engraving, which took him to the British Academy in Rome for two years. Three years after leaving the academy schools, in 1963 he moved permanently to Italy. He had one-man shows of his own paintings in the 1970s and 1980s in Tivoli, Genoa, Hamburg, Manila and at the Alwin Gallery in London.

After the publication of Drawn to Trouble, he had shows of his paintings at the Julian Hartnoll Gallery in London, and of his "fakes" at the Archeus Gallery. He was the subject of a BBC Omnibus film lan a book, Il manuale del falwhich he was negotiating with an English publisher. Eric Hebborn's autobiogra-

phy, for a man not a practising writer, is as meticulously made as any of his Old Master drawings - and that ambiguity is intentional. He "adopted" my family (wife and three daughters) some 35 years ago, while living in Highbury, north London. At that time he was teaching at the Reigate and Redhill School of Art, and dealing in watercolours of the Norwich School. He became godfather to our youngest daughter. What he saw in such a family remains a mystery, unless he found in us a substitute for his own, then, long-lost siblings.

His greatest qualities were generosity, loyalty and - against all evidence - honesty. These qualities remained constant; whatever the defects or ups-and-

always a giver. And he regarded debt as a matter of honour - creditors (perhaps with the exception of lawyers) were always, eventually, paid.

Honesty, of course, is philo-sophically difficult to define. Hebborn's often-quoted dictum that attributions to his drawings were made by others - never by him - applied equally to his way of living. None who knew him well ever saw him dissemble: what you saw was what you got.

For some 30 years he was a resident of Anticoli Corrado, near Rome, where, to his unabashed delight, he was known, particularly in the village bars, as "Il Professore" ("It only

means teacher," he said).
Earlier, following his Rome
Scholarship, he lived in the
gatehouse to the Villa Doria Pamphili in Rome, and in Via Giulia. He then rented the Vil-



Pen-and-ink drawing by Hebborn of his friend Anthony Blunt, c1979. Hebborn's good connections helped him in his deception

downs of those he knew. He was la San Filippo, below the village of Anticoli, a few miles outside the city, on the road to Subiaco. This had been the home of many popes' gardeners. Looking for somewhere

more permanent he once showed me an abandoned barn in a wood beneath Anticoli (a village famous in Italy not only for its resident artists, but for its artists' models). "I'll make that my home," he said. Employing local builders and his own, then great, strength, he built Santa Maria, in Bosco di Ciabatta ("Shipper Wood"), where he was to spend all but the last few years of his life.

It was in Santa Maria that he began, for the first time in years, to create his own work translating and illustrating the Epic of Gilgamesh: composing his autobiography; and painting. An exhibition of his water-colours of Trvoli and its environment at the Villa d'Este was not only a sell-out, but resuited in more commissions than he could accept.

As he aged - his beloved Chianti took its toll - he found traveiling on foot (the only way) from Santa Maria to Anticoli an impossibility. So he left to live in an apartment in Piazza San Giovanni della Malva, in Trastevere, his spiritual home.

Hebborn was - and this comes out well in the autobiography – a remarkable raconteur. His tales pointed up to his phenomenal (if selective) memory, an ability which enabled him to assimilate, in time, Italian, Spanish - and Latin. He translated (and illustrated) Lorca and, over many years, the sonnets of Michelangelo and Giuseppe Belli. The latter, who wrote in the language of the ordinary Roman people, appealed particularly to one who saw no differences in humankind. In response to his critics, he

wrote: "I have never considered myself a misunderstood genius, or for that matter a genius at all. No one asked me to become an artist, and the world does not

The first time I met Eric Hebborn, writes Geraldine Norman, was in 1980 over several bottles of red wine in the kitchen of his beautiful villa at Anticoli, in the company of his beautiful Filipino boyfriend who had hair down to his waist. I had arrived unannounced to ask if he wanted to talk about the fakes he had sold. I hoped the red wine might make him garrulous but he stuck, throughout the evening, to his story of having bought the fakes in a Covent Garden junk-shop and passed them on in good faith, believing them to be genuine.

It was clear he knew I didn't believe him and he didn't mind that at all. He talked a lot about Tom Keating, another British picture faker, who I'd helped to write a book. Heb-born twitted me about it and led me on to think that he was teetering on the brink of telling all himself - but then held back with a twinkle in the eye as if to say: "You can't catch me as easily as that." It was not, in fact, until 1991 that he published his own book, Drawn to Trouble, in which he finally admitted that he was the author of literally hundreds of fake Old Master

He did not, as far as I know, make a lot of money out of picture faking, but he was exceptionally successful in terms of hoodwinking art historians. Tom Keating made money at country auctions where hopeful but uninformed buyers thought they were making "discoveries"; he also got half a dozen works in the style of Samuel Palmer past Sotheby's and two Bond Street dealers, Colnaghi's and Leger's, thus arousing the suspicion of art historians - which led to his downfall.

Han van Meegeren, the famous Dutch faker of the late 1930s and 1940s, got his Vermeers past one ageing scholar - Abraham Bredius - while Elmyr de Hory sold Picassos and Modiglianis on a massive scale to an American millionaire caled Meadows. They were spotted once Meadows began to

What you saw was what you got: Hebborn in 1990

Photograph: B. Donatello / Agenzia Contrasto

show them to experts. Hebborn's extraordinary success lay in deceiving the art historians themselves.

He didn't sell direct to museums. He put his Old Master drawings into Sotheby's and Christie's auctions and sold them to leading London dealers - who passed them on to museums. Before he was unmasked, his drawings had been bought as genuine by the British Museum, the National Gallery. Washington, the National Gailery of Canada, the Royal Museum of Copenhagen and the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York. That meant hoodwinking an awful lot of art

It was obviously a help that everyone knew he was a friend of Professor Anthony Blunt, director of the Courtauld Institute, with whom he used to stay while in London. In the art world, people tend to be taken seriously if they are well con-nected. But Hebborn was also adept at hiding clues in his drawings. They would be related to a painting only reproduced in some exceptionalobscure book; they would be inscribed with old attributions to the wrong artist; they would, of course, be executed on paper of the right period, produced in the right region of Europe . . .

Meegeren and many other fakers, his prime motivation seems to have been resentment at his lack of recognition as an artist in his own right. By successfully deceiving experts he was able to tell himself that "they" knew nothing and were wrong to ignore his own work. Maybe he could also tell himself that he was just as good as the artists he imitated. In any case, he had a masterly understanding of art-historical bullshit; and he managed to leave many scholars with red faces.

Eric Hebborn, artist, sculptor, forger: born London 20 March 1934; died Rome 11 January

Professor Seton Lloyd

Seton Lloyd's long archaeological career began in 1929 in Egypt, moved to Iraq in 1930 where it continued throughout the Second World War and after, and in 1949 moved again to Turkey for 12 years. From 1962 to 1969 he was Professor of Western Asiatic Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology at London University, and in his many years of retirement he remained active and involved until very latterly. His knowledge of Near Eastern archaeology was unrivailed and survives in many meticulous academic publications as well as more readable works for a wider

Lloyd was born in 1902 into a substantial Quaker background of well-known names. whose family ramifications gave him widespread circles of kinsmen. He was educated at Uppingham and subsequently studied at the Architectural Association, qualifying in 1928. During this time he worked for two years as assistant to Sir Edwin Lutyens. This architectural training proved an invaluable resource in his subsequent career in archaeology, where his understanding of how buildings work gave him an unusual and

special perspective.

His field career spanned a range of archaeological fashions, extending from the lavishly

funded American excavations of pre-war days to the shoestring but resourceful British excavations after the war. It reached up to the beginning of modern archaeology, heavily sciencebased and directed to maximum data retrieval. But Lloyd's style of painstaking and methodical excavation and publication strove towards an understanding of the past which is surely still valid.

In both Iraq and Turkey his name is associated with the breaking of new ground both in the location of sites and in the identification of cultures, and his successors have constantly found themselves walking in his footsteps. Among his contemporaries there were figures more extrovert and flamboyant than he, yet the record of work which he has bequeathed compares favourably with theirs.

The story of his colourful life is best told by himself in his memoirs. The Interval, published by him in retirement in 1986. His switch from architecture to archaeology was entirely fortuitous. In 1929 he replaced at the last minute a friend engaged as architectural advisor on the British excatation at El-Amarna in Egypt. This brought him into contact with Henri Frankfort, whom he

tellectual influence. Subsequently Frankfort, commissioned by the Oriental Institute, Chicago, to undertake excavations on the Diyala river in Iraq. persuaded Lloyd to join his team. After his initial task of building and equipping the palatial excavation house in the middle of nowhere, Lloyd played a prominent part in those enormously productive operations, running from 1930 to 1937, and in the substantial publications which flowed from

Work on John Garstang's excavations at Mersin in 1937 and 1938 gave Lloyd his first taste of Turkey, and he then took the opportunity to make the difficult journey through south-east Turkey to northern Iraq, where he conducted the very important Siniar survey. He was then offered the post

of Archaeology Adviser to the Directorate of Antiquities in Baghdad, which he took up in 1939. This had the unforseeable consequence that he spent the war largely in Iraq, and was fully caught up in the dramatic political events there, the pro-Nazi coup and the British counterstrike and occupation. In the intervals between these events he was able to conduct some notable research, principally the excavation of the painted temalways spoke of as a major inple at Ugair and later of Tell

Hassuna, where he identified a new culture - and the earliest known - in Iraq. In 1943 he met Ulrica Hyde ("Hydie"), whom he married the following

Continuing in his Baghdad post after the war, Lloyd's main archaeological activity was the excavation of Eridu, an early Sumerian city, in collaboration with Fuad Safar. Also at this time he and Hydie acquired Woolstone Lodge, the house just below the Berkshire White Horse which was to be their family home for the rest of their

Now his links with John Garstang bore fruit, for when the latter succeeded in establishing a new British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara, Seton Lloyd was invited to become its first director. He moved to Ankara in 1949 and during the next 12 years acquired that abiding love of Turkey, its peo-ple and its past which is amply attested in many of his publications. The relations which he established with Turkish colleagues ensured a successful start to the new enterprise and built up a fund of local good will. Many British archaeologists remember with pleasure the warm family atmosphere which the Lloyds created in the

Adapting well to the parsi-



monious conditions of British archaeological provisions, Lloyd inaugurated a number of limited but carefully planned operations, which produced valuable and significant results. Among his initial activities were the Polatli sounding, which produced a very important pottery sequence; the Sultantepe excavations, where he had the good luck to hit a major collection of cuneiform tablets forming an Assyrian provincial library; and his survey of Alanya castle.

The major effort of his Ankara tenure was the excavation of Beyce Sultan, six seasons conducted in collaboration with James Mellaart. Though he al-ways confessed himself disappointed with Beyce for its comparative lack of finds. inmaterial, the architectural remains which he recovered and interpreted were dramatic enough, and the excavations added a new province to Anatolian archaeology, linking for the first time the interior plateau with the west coast. By good fortune, about the

time that Lloyd and his wife decided that their nomadic expatriate life should cease, the Professorship of Western Asiatic Archaeology in London fell vacant. Seton Lloyd was appointed and took up his post in 1962, not without some diffidence, since he had no experience of teaching. He need not have worried, for he had no difficulty in communicating his deep archaeological knowledge and enthusiasm. His years at the institute, from 1962 to 1969. were a high point in the study

of Near Eastern archaeology. At this time he inaugurated a final project in collaboration with Charles Burney in the form of an expedition to Urartu, the Iron Age kingdom of Ararat centring on Lake Van in eastern Turkey. Though well conceived, the project unfortunately ran into difficulties and. after a very successful first sea-

son at the site of Kayalidere in the province of Mus, it was unable to continue. But it did mark the beginning of intensive recluding an absence of written search in Urartu, which has expanded beyond recognition in the last 30 years. In his retirement, Lloyd re-

> mained very active in the affairs of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq and the Ankara Institute. He served as Honorary Secretary to the latter from 1962 to 1972, and in 1975 was elected President, serving until 1981. He was also President of the Iraq School from 1979 to 1982. No word on Lloyd would be

complete without reference to his publications. Unlike so many of his profession, he never allowed an overwhelming backlog of material to accumulate. Both his regular preliminary reports, latterly mostly in the early numbers of Anatolian Studies, and his prompt final reports were concise, clear and meticulous. illustrated by his own beautifully drawn and instantly recognisable plans and reconstructions. In addition to his professional writing, he also leaves a number of notable and very readable publications for the interested layman, including Foundations in the Dust (1947; revised 1980), Early Ana(1963) and Ancient Turkey Seton Lloyd was a tall, im-

posing figure, who always dressed well. He united an outward reticence, even diffidence, with a pleasing dry humour. In a combination, which to seems curious, he was both a great lover of natural beauty and wild life, and an enthusiastic shot. He was very happy with his wife Hydie, herself an outstandingly lovable personality, and an accomplished artist and sculptor, who enjoyed sharing his archaeological life. Sadly strepredeceased him by eight years. The atmosphere which they

created in their lovely house. Woolston Lodge, will remain an unforgettable memory to all lucky enough to have known it.

J. D. Hawkins

Seton Howard Frederick Lloyd, archaeologist: born 30 May 1902; FSA 1938; Technical Adviser, Government of Iraq, Directorate-General of Antiquities 1939-49; OBE 1948, CBE 1958; Director, British Institute of Archaeology, Ankara 1949-61; FBA 1955; Professor of Western Asiatic Archaeology, London University 1962-69 (Emeritus); President, British School of Archaeology in Iraq 1979-82; married 1944 UIrica Hyde (died 1987; two sons, toua (Pelican Books, 1956), one daughter); died 7 January Mounds of the Ancient Near East 1996.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

PARKER: On 4 January to Petra (née Bray) and Robin, a son. William Thomas, a brother to Matthew. DEATHS

CONDREN: Desmond, aged 89 years, died peacefully at West Middlesex Hospital, on 24 December 1995. A former Deputy Head at \$1 Thomas More School, Chelsea, for nearly 30 years, his funeral service took place on \$1 January 1996, at \$7 Michael and \$1 Martin Church, Hounslow.

POURKAE On 4 January 1996, Baltram Khan, of Tehran. Iran, at the Hospi-tal of St John and St Elizabeth, Lonnar of Scision and Scienzabeth, London, after a short illness. Funeral at Etham Crematorium. 11,30am, 26 January. All enquiries to Francis Chappell, telephone 0181-303 4777.

cements for Gazette BIRTHS. MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent to the Gazzar Emior, the Bioependent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Lon-don E14 5DL telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line

Changing of the Guard Changing of the Guard TODAE is Homehold Caralty Mounted Reg-ment mounts the Ousen's Life Guard at Horse Guards. Ham. TOMORROW: The Homehold Caralty Mounted Regiment mounts the Quard's Life Guard at Barse Guards. Johns Ls Bartalon Souts Clarish mounts the Ousen's Guard, in Buck-legham Palace. 11 Mam. band provided by the Souts Clarish.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Craigie Aitchison, painter, 70; Air Marshal Sir John Baker-Carr, 90; Sir Brian Barratt-Boyes, heart surgeon, 72; Mr Clive Betts MP, 46; Sir Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, former prime minister of Oucensland, 85; Mr Richard Blackford, composer, 42; Mr Michael Bond, creator of "Paddington Bear", 70; Dr Sydney Brenner, biologist. 69; Sir John Caines, former senior civil servant, 63: Mr Edward Crew, Chic Constable, Northamptonshire, 50; Mr Tim Flavin, actor, dancer and singer, 37; Mr Stephen Hendry, snooker player, 27; The Right Rev Michael Henley, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, 57; Lord Johnston, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland. 54; Sir Liam McCollum, High Court judge, Northern Ireland, 63; Mr Ronan Rafferty, golfer, 32; Sir Colin Shepherd MP, 58; Mr Bernard Shrimsley, Associate Editor, Daily Express, 65; Mr Robert Stack, film actor, 77; Mr Kenneth Turpin, former Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University, 81; The Right Rev Michael Vickers, Assistant Bishop. Blackburn, 67.

TOMORROW: Captain Sir Alastair Aird, Comptroller to Queen Eliza-beth the Queen Mother, 65; Professor Sir Melville Arnott, cardiologist, 87; Mr Peter Barkworth, actor, 67; Miss Carol Beliamy, executive di-rector of Unicef, 54; Mr Richard Briers, actor, 62; Baroness Brooke of Ystradfellte, former vice-chairman, Conservative Party, 88: Lord Catto. president, Morgan Grenfell, 73; Mis-Faye Dunaway, actress, 55; Miss Maina Gielgud, ballerina, 51; Miss Andrée Grenfell, former managing director, Glemby International, 56:

Mr Brian Hardie, cricketer, 46; Sir Martin Holdgate, former director-general, International Union for Conservation of Nature, 65; Sir Arthur Hoole, solicitor and former chairman of the College of Law, 72; Mr Jack Jones, singer, 58; Professor Sir Hans Kornberg, Master of Christ's College, Cambridge, 68; Mr John Lever, Headmaster, Canford School, 44; Mr Warren Mitchell, ac-tor, 70; Mr Trevor Nunn, theatre di-rector, 56; Sir Neil Pritchard, former ambassador to Thailand, 85; Mr Christopher Reeves, bunker, 60; Sir Vernon Seccombe, chairman, Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, 68; Mlle Caterina Valente, guitarist and singer, 65; Mr Bill Werbermink, procket clause, 40; Sir John Wood, sunger, no: Nor Bill Werberniuk, snooker player, 40; Sir John Wood-cock, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 64; Mr Roger Young, chief executive, Scottish Hydro-

Anniversaries TODAY: Births: Charles Perrault, coilector of fairy tales, 1628; Lord Willis (Edward Henry "Ted" Willis), playwright, 1913, Deaths: Edmund enser, poet, 1599; William Frend De Morgan, artist and author, 1917; Sebastian Ziani de Ferranti, electri-

cal engineer, 1930; James Joyce, novelist, 1941; Hubert Horatio Humphrey, US vice-president, 1978. On this day: the Independent Labour Party was formed under Keir Hardie, 1893; the world's largest airport was opened in Dallas, Texas, 1974. Today is the Feast Day of St Agrecius, St Berno and St Hilary of Poitiers. TOMORROW: Births: Dr Albert

Schweitzer, missionary, 1875; Hugh

Lofting, author, 1886; Sir Ceril Wal-

ter Hardy Beaton, photographer

and stage designer, 1904; Joseph Losey, film director, 1909. Deaths: Edmond Halley, astronomer, 1742; George Dance the younger, architect, George Dance the younger, architect, 1825; Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, paimer, 1867; Lewis Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson), author, 1898; Humphrey DeForest Bogart, film actor, 1957; Anaïs Nin, writer and poet, 1977; Peter Finch (William Mitchell), actor, 1977. On this day: the Great Frost Fair began on the Thames, 1205; another great Frost Thames, 1205: another great Frost Fair was held on the Thames, 1814; Queen Victoria heard a concert re-layed to her by telephone, 1878. To-day is the Feast Day of St Antony Pucci, St Barbasymas or Bar-bascemin, St Datius, St Felix of Nota St Kentingers of Mayers St Nola, St Kentigern or Mungo, St Macrina the Elder, The Martyrs of ount Sinai and St Sava.

Association of **Anaesthetists of Great** Britain and Ireland

The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland held their Winter Scientific Meeting dinner yesterday evening at the Café Roy-al, London W.L. Dr S. M. Lyons, President, and Mrs Lyons were the hosts. Amongst those present were:

Dr and Mrs W.L.M. Baint, Professor J.P. Dr. and Mrs. W.L.M. Baint, Professor J.P. Blandy, Dr. and Mrs. A.L.J. Braux, Sir Kenneth and Lady Calman; Dr. H. and the Rev. W. Campbell; Professor and Mrs. R.S.J. Clarke, Dr. C.J., Gough; Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Cooke, Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Cooper, Mr. B.H. Goodman; Mr. and Mrs. C.D. Gowdy, Sir Donald and Lady Irone; Mr. J.N. Johnson; Sir Robert and Lady Kilpatrick; Dr. and Mrs. S.W. Lim, Mr. and Mrs. E. Lindh; Dr. A. Macure, Dr. and Mrs. J.F. Nama; Professor Telik E. Oth. Professor and Mrs. C. Prys-Ruberts; Mr. and Mrs. W.K. Reid; Professor and Mrs. M. Rocer, Sir Rodbery and Lady Sassor and Mrs. M. Rocer, Sir Rodbery and Lady Sassor and Mrs. M. Rocer, Sir Rodbery and Lady issor and Mrs M. Rosen; Sir Rodney and Lady Sweetnam; Professor and Mrs M.D. Vickers;

All the talk about whether you are "saved"

or not, overlooks the main point: would you even want to be? Most commentary on the Church of England's report The Mystery of Salvation throughout assumes that heaven is a kind of prize - as if spiritual rewards were like material goods, though the report itself makes clear that this can't be true.

The problem is that we are so saturat-

ed by consumerism that we cannot help thinking of heaven as some sort of upmarket package holiday, endless of course and free - the ultimate special offer. We crudely imagine that heaven is a place where we might be happy.

Fortunately (or unfortunately) heaven is not a bit of what anyone and everyone might fancy: Club Med for the raunchy youngsters, an everlasting debate on the structures of ecclesiastical management for the Synod's standing committee, or even a timeless Test match for me. Heaven is traditionally and clearly defined as the nearer presence of God. Now that I have reminded you of that fact, are you sure you really want to go there - dead or alive? Consumerism has seen to it that we

think heaven is something which is for us. The reality is that it is we who are for heaven. The only question is whether we are ready for it. The purpose of our life is not to try our best at virtue and self-denial in order that we might receive our reward in heaven as permission at long last to let rip and really indulge ourselves. Our purpose is so to order our desires and pas-

faith oreason

One man's heaven is another man's hell

This week the Church of **England Doctrine Commission** issued a report outlining church

policy on salvation. Peter Mullen berates the media for their consumerist response.

sions in this world that the holiness of the world will not be a nasty shock.

There is economic convenience in this scheme, for it means that God does not have to provide two sorts of eternal habitation. One will do. The heaven of the devout will be hell for the disobedient and carcless. And it is in this sense only that God cannot compel everyone to be saved: for God cannot force us to desire Him.

Spiritual truth is the very opposite of consumerism. That is to say, all talk about salvation and damnation must be seen in the context of Christ's words: "He who seeks to save his life will lose it." The divine economy does not work like the superstore. In the heavenly life giving really is receiving. We are so used to think-ing of rewards and punishments as objects that we are blind to the radical subjectivity of salvation. In order to receive heaven

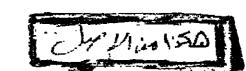
as salvation and not as damnation we must make ourselves ready to receive it.

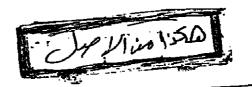
We are not spiritual consumers, free to make up our own minds about which precise form of eternal bliss we would like to sample. We are made in a certain image and form whose purpose is preordained: it is to find our true selves in the person of God. Aristotle knew this and he called it our telos, and it means our raison d'être. Or, as St Augustine says in his beautiful prayer: "O Lord, Thou has made us for Thyself and our souls are restless till they rest in Thee."

Who then can be saved? How can I re-

ceive salvation when my desire for God is constantly being choked by lust for worldly things, when my love for Him is intermittent and lukewarm? The traditional answer is that these things take time and they come only with pain and struggle. And beyond the heaven-hell dichotomy the Church teaches the doctrine of purgatory – which is not so much a place as a process of gradually coming to the true recognition of the things which can really nourish us. Some of us may have to spend a lot of time in purgatory. In fact of course purgatory begins here on earth before we shuffle off this mortal coil.

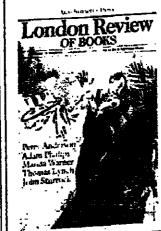
Think of purgatory as a finishing school for the desires and passions, a place for the ordering of unruly wills and affections of sinful men. Yes, we shall all get through in the end. And cheer up! Remember St Thomas Aquinas said, "Yes, hell exists but there is almost certainly no one in it."







$Alan\ Bennett$ wishes you a rewarding New Year with the London Review of Books



2.

A CONTRACTOR

'David Frost's rise as a political commentator is in direct proportion to the decline of respect for politicians. Major, Blair and Ashdown meekly trot along to be lightly grilled by Frost, and indeed use the occasion for statements of policy and matters of national importance. It's as if Jesus were to undertake the feeding of the Five Thousand as a contribution to Challenge Anneka.'

Alan Bennett, in the current issue of the Landon Review of Books

Wir, intelligence, political analysis, literary criticism, mirth. These and more are available for your intellectual pleasure this year and for years to come in the London Review of Books - said by

Alan Bennett to be 'the liveliest, the most serious and also the most radical literary magazine we have'.

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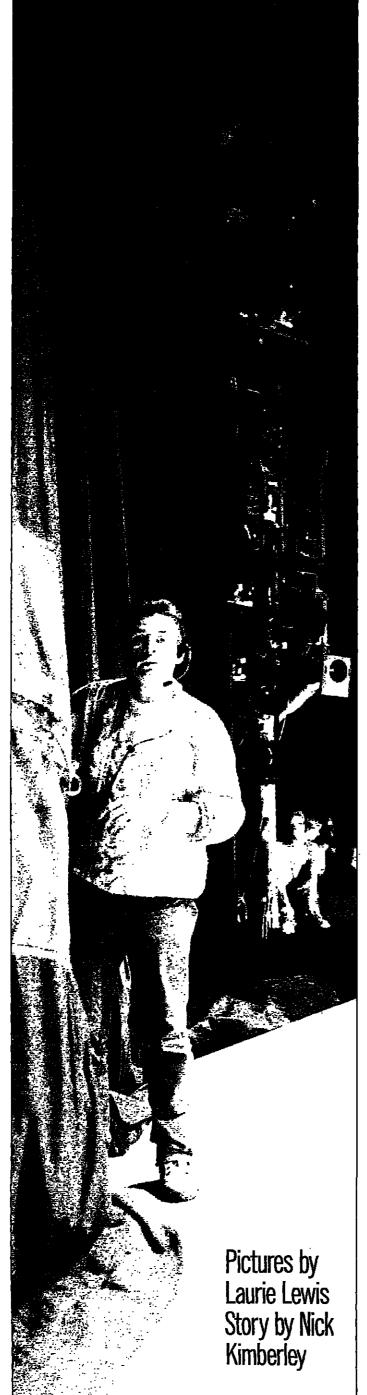
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PIT STOP

ight days to curtain up on Covent Garden's new staging of Michael
Tippett's The Midsummer Marriage and the press is buzzing with rumours of the backstage dramas revealed in a BBC fly-on-the-wall documentary due to go out on the opera's opening night. No signs of panic, though, as Monday's rehearsals get under way. The stage is littered with cool-boxes and picnic-baskers: Act 3 is party time. From the back of the auditorium, Graham Vick (director), Wolfgang Göbbel (lighting) and Paul Brown (design) watch proceedings. Their desk, with its bank of computer screens, mikes and sundry electricals, is Mission Control.

In the pit, Sir Bernard Haitink, music director, runs through one of the opera's 'Ritual Dances", the dancers audibly panting at their exertions. Directly behind Haitink in the stalls, David Syrus, who will conduct one performance, checks Haitink's timings, using a pencil for a baton. He mutters to Haitink, who cocks an ear without missing a beat. Out in the auditorium, people whisper and scuffle: just like any night at the opera. Soloists and chorus join proceedings. Eventually Haitink calls, "I think we'll leave it there." The pit empties in no time. An oboist stays behind to practise her runs, Vick shouts to his design team, "Wolfgang! We've got five minutes," as if this is a heavenly gift. Everyone else is off to the canteen. There, Pearl de Coteau is used to clearing up after singers. She's worked here for eight years but when I ask if she ever attends a performance, she says "No" as if it's a particularly stupid question. Do the singers ever act like, well, prima donnas? "They're always well behaved... with me," she replies, suggesting that misbehaviour would be more than their careers were worth.

Meanwhile, Vick has called his singers into an uostairs room to talk through their parts. The photographer and I are asked to leave. Back downstairs, Haitink takes the chorus through a number and politely suggests, "I think it'll help if we go over this once more." As the music plays, there is rustling from Mission Control. Haitink, the merest hint of perity in his tone, calls, "Stop talking please. Shut up!" At the next break, Vick throws his arm around the conductor's shoulder: "Bernard, I'm sorry." That's as close as it gets to friction. In the pit, a lone violinist makes amendments to his score while Stephen O'Mara, the tenor lead. asks Haitink's advice about a difficult phrase he has to sing. Haitink talks him through it.

In the final session, problems occur with moving parts that don't move, while the bass, John Tomlinson, struggles with a huge length of fabric that gets tangled. Scurrying, as if to evade notice, Vick potters about the stage, showing exactly the movement he's after. He mimes the jerky spasms he wants from one singer, while all around the chorus sings, "Is it a vision? Is it a dream?"

Is it a dream?"
Finally, Haitink's brisk "Thank you!"
dismisses the orchestra. Vick is still advising the chorus: "If any of you has a picnic basket that can be stood on, stand on it."
At the edge of the stage, a dancer massages a colleague's neck. Flat on her back, another goes through complex stretching exercises. Choreographer Ron Howell thanks his charges. Vick calls to his designer: "Paul, do you want to see John's wig tomorrow?" The answer is curt: "No." Rehearsal is over. Seven days to go.

The Midsummer Marriage' at the Royal Opera House, London WC2, 16, 19, 27 Jan, 8, 12 and 14 Feb. Booking: 0171-304 4000







Take it from the top: picture below,
Ron Howell (left) and Sir Bernard
Haitink, music director of the
Royal Opera; second left,
Christopher Ventrils and
Lilliane Watson



THIS WEEKEND WHY NOT...

TAKE PART IN A Gamelan Workshop



in school music lessons, the percussion section used to be distinctly unglamorous. Who wanted to be caught dead bonging a chime bar or jingling away on the triangle? Being left in charge of a kettle drum or a massive pair of cymbals did have a certain allure though. Nothing, however, in comparison with the wonders of a garnelan ensemble. The South Bank Centre is running two two-hour "taster" workshops on their own genuine Javanese garnelan collection, a range of instruments that renders Western instruments anodyne. You need no musical experience and anyone from the age of seven upwards is invited to make music. And you thought J Arthur Rank was the last word in gongs.

11.30am, 3pm South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-960 4242) Adults £5 Children £2.50 Family tickets (2 adults and up to 3 children) £10.

BUY Derek Pearce Sculpture



In a completely original niche between furniture design and sculpture you'll find the remarkable Derek Pearce. A master craftsman and designer, he has also worked as a composer and an actor, which accounts for the dramatic element to his elegant, witty pieces, particularly the Water Tables. The Hippo Table sees the carved wooden creature peeping over the water, in the form of the glass table top. Others include a round pond table supported by three cold-cast bronze diving ducks, or the sublime table held aloft by two bronze synchronised swimmers. His recent homage to Charles Rennie Mackintosh incorporated an immaculately carved mackintosh lying on a wooden table. It was commissioned by Glasgow airport, the perfect place to let his imagination take flight.

The Hippo Table is £4,500. Others start at £2,500. Derek Pearce is on 0181-741 0819.-

WATCH Mark Elder conduct Holst



Early 20th-century British composers have a bad name. Carping critics allude to the over-relance on folk-tunes, lumping composers into the English "cow-pat school". Gustav Holst would appear to be one of the unwitting founder-members of this so-called school; Delius, a Bradford wool merchant's son who died of syphilis in France, is on the edge; Tippett meanwhile is completely outside it. In any event, conductor Mark Elder (above) would probably pooh-poon the entire lame-brained theory. Tonight he conducts works by all three composers with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in the glorious acoustic of their very own Symphony Hall. Why Elder is not the musical director of one of our major orchestras is an ablding mystery.

7.30pm Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333).

CATCH The Bluetones in Dublin



Headlining the twinklingly named NME/ Miller Genuine Draft Brat Bus Tour, Hounslow's very own The Bluetones are the . name on every pop-picker's pickled pucker as: the band to bank on in 1996. They jangle: expertly, their melodies turn lovely corners, and their mop-tops are all their own. Furthermore, their first baby is due any week now. Britpop may be dead but the electric guitar carries on regardless. Bratty support comes in the many shapes of the Cardigans, Heavy Stereo and Notting Hill's ghastly. Fiuffy, who are every bit as irritating as they sound. The tour hits Dublin tonight before moving on over the coming week to Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Wolverhampton, Bristol, Cambridge and

Dublin tickets £8.75 (00 353:1456.9569).

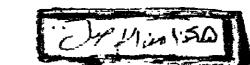
EDITED BY DAVID BENEDICT

LISTEN TO
Simon
Armitage
reading poetry



As events in their own rights, literary prizes are about as attention-grabbing as a pair of Y-fronts hung out to dry on a washing tine. But in that they spawn related events (usually, gatherings of closet poetry fanatics), they are to be obsequiously thanked. Take the TS Eliot Rootty Prize, for example, which "aims to stimulate interest in contemporary poetry" with a £5.000 carrot. If it does so, it will be more due to the opportunity to see and hear all. 10 shortisted poets in one place tomorrow night than because of the final selection. Now's your chance to catch up on the "new lad" poets (Simon Armitage, above, and Glyn Maxwell) as well as discover the lesser known, diverse exchantments of Katherine Pierpoint, Maurice Riotten and

others. Fear not: none is averse to a good three... 7pm, Sun, Aimeida Theatre, Monaida S. London, N1 (0171-359 4404/18





here was a time, back in the Eighties, when Nick Cave was the biggest roaringboy reprobate in rock music. Tales were rife of bad behaviour pursued almost as an act of faith: of the time he physically attacked a journalist who probed his heroin addiction a little too tenaciously; or the time he and his band The Bad Seeds wrecked a German film-festival gala; or, most famously, the time he pulled a syringe from his arm and started writing a letter in his own blood - on board a London tube train.

Since then, Cave's grown a little more mature. He's published an acclaimed novel, And the Ass Saw the Angel; acted in several films, including his friend Wim Wenders's Wings of Desire; been through rehab for the heroin addiction; and finally has his drinking under control. Perhaps not uncoincidentally, his albums have become more successful, both critically and commercially - they now routinely sell more than a quarter of a million copies, unusual for a fringe artist - and in the past couple of years, he's got married, become a father, and separated, as if packing an entire adult life into a matter of months.

Now, he's contemplating murder. Bloody, violent, senseless murder, and plenty of it. Cave's forthcoming album Murder Ballads (released 5 February) features nine gory examples of the genre capped with a version of Bob Dylan's "Death is Not the End" which turns that epistle of hope into a bleak promise of further tribulation. If, as seems likely, the album continues the current upward trajectory of his career, there will be a fine irony in this most self-destructive of artists deriving his greatest success from death, when for many years, he had seemed to be on a more personal collisioncourse with it.

In a hotel suite near his Notting Hill flat. Cave chain-smokes and drinks tea while musing on his latest project and his past reputation. "People expect certain things from me," he says, and I guess they're disappointed when they superman-psychopath as fostered so assidudon't get them." Always obsessive about language, his comments come via a stutter of aborted sentences, as he seeks the most accurate way of phrasing. With his generous lips and upturned nose, he has something of the aspect of a pugnacious romantic, though with a cartoon side that offsets his seriousness (Billy Bragg once cogently compared him to the Cat in the Hat, from the Dr Seuss children's books). He seems more focused than the last time I spoke to him, a few years ago. Then, he had knocked the heroin and the speed on the head, and was tackling the alcohol problem on a daily basis, "just trying to drink one day at a time - but I don't feel like I've gone through something and risen into this blazing white light, or whatever". Now, a mutual friend reports, he's completely off the booze, too: "It's quite annoying - now you have to lay on the Ribena for when Nick comes round."

The son of a librarian and a teacher, Cave it done on a grand scale in the was born in Warracknabeal, a small country town 180 miles north of Melbourne, in September 1957. Through his teens, he developed the exhibitionist manner that would later serve him well in his Iggy Pop-style stage performances, getting a reputation for taking his clothes off at parties, and developing an interest in the various rock 'n' roll libations. An equally significant spur to future endeavours, however, was provided by his father, who read Nabokov's Lolita to him when he was 15.

Inspired by the punk revolution, Cave's first group, The Boys Next Door, pursued a typically rowdy path through the Eastern Australian states, getting banned from many venues for their behaviour and their uncompromising music, which was completely at odds with the general run of Aussie R&B pub-rock. On one occasion, he and bassist Tracy Pew were arrested when, en route to a show in Canberra, they urinated out of the back of the band van while it was moving; the car behind, unfortunately for them, contained a local policeman's wife, who was convinced they had been masturbating for several miles.

It was around this time that Cave first experimented with heroin, developing the habit which would, over the next decade and a half, lead him into some of the world's less salubrious districts, reaching a nadir of sorts in 1986, when he was busted in New York for possession of heroin and syringes. A week later in Los Angeles, attempting to score in the wrong part of town, he was robbed at gunpoint. Eventually, after pleading guilty to another bust in 1988, he would enter a detox programme at a Weston-Super-Mare clinic.

In February 1980, the group - now renamed The Birthday Party - relocated to London, the first of a succession of moves which has seen the restless singer set up home in places as far afield as Berlin and Sao Paulo. "He likes to put himself in outsider situations," explains Cave's friend, the photographer Bleddyn Butcher. As the band hurtled full-speed towards its eventual dissolution in 1983, Cave began work on a manuscript which would eventually be published in 1989 as And the Ass Saw the Angel. An ambitious work whose florid, anachronistic prose style attempts to capture the inner voice of a mute psychotic in the early decades of this century, the novel represents the apotheosis of several themes which had become constants in his work with The Birthday Party and, later, on a series of albums with The Bad Seeds: sex, death, violence, religion and the American South.

"I was quite possessed when I wrote that book, it just poured out, unstoppable," he recalls. It purged a lot of things that had been plaguing me for a long time."

The novel went on to sell an astonishing 15,000 hardback copies in the UK, and a further 35,000 copies when Penguin put out the paperback - extraordinary for a first novel - and was widely acclaimed as a prodigious feat of imagination. But, apotheosis or not, it clearly didn't drain Cave of his interest in violent death. judging by Murder Ballads. It's a strange, album, suspended somewhere between despair and black comedy, with few punches pulled. Innocents are slaughtered without remorse. madmen (and madwomen) stalk the songs, and corpses litter the proceedings.

One song alone, the 15-minute-long "O Malley's Bar", has the kind of body-count that would raise even Quentin Tarantino's eyebrows, but without bothering with anything as troublesome as motivation. Basically, it's a simple case of man enters bar, man shoots everyone in bar, done in a kind of narrative slow-motion that's something like the aural equivalent of

Peckinpah's cinematic shoot-ups.
"I wrote that in all sorts of different states of mind." Cave explains. "I remember sitting by the pool on tour, with a banana daiquiri in my hand, writing several verses and thinking I wanted to somehow get 'banana daiquiri' in the song, that one of the characters should be drinking that. I think it goes, 'So then I approached Robert Thackeray, and shot him right through his banana daiquiri', or something like that.

"It's one of those ongoing shaggy-dog-story type songs that if you've got a spare moment you can always write a verse for. Which ends up making interesting songs - you can't really remember what you've written before, so your sympathies towards the central character change a lot. Within that particular song, which is for me the main song on the record, there's a good indication of my mixed feelings towards that type of killer: on the one hand, being quite sympathetic towards his plight, finding a certain amount of rage and disgust at a society that creates a situation where somebody has to go out and do something horrendous like this in order to get a little meaning into their life, but at the same time being unsympathetic towards that character because he's killed a lot of innocent people."

This is as close as Cave gets to sitting in judgement on his characters - though even that is a more persuasive demonstration of sympathy than is extended to the victims. There's a powerful sense of alienation about the album, as if Cave wanted to include certain morbid. violent fantasies and at the same time drain them of their glamour, defusing the myth of the ously by Hollywood. In these Murder Ballads. we're constantly forced to confront what Hannah Arendt once famously called "the banality of evil".

Exactly," Cave agrees. "Very often murder seems to be simply a case of lack of imagination, more than anything else. Derek Raymond, the crime writer, was getting to a very interesting point with his books before his death: his take was that the criminal was a bore, and especially the murderer.

Éven though the songs have the idea of murder linking them together." Cave continues, "some of them are just flat-out comic songs, nothing more than that. 'The Kindness of Strangers', for instance, is simply an exercise in cruelty, sitting down and writing a character and making her so naïve and virtuous, then wiping her out. I can't define this, but there is a certain satisfaction in doing that. You can see Justine is about that, and Nabokov's Lolita, too. to a certain extent - the killing of the mother especially. Just sitting down and inventing a character that would be a delight to kill, and killing her."

Other songs are less easily assimilated into the realms of cruelty or comedy. The single. Where the Wild Roses Grow", on which Cave duets with his fellow Australian Kylie Minogue in a tale of romantic obsession slipping into homicide, is, despite the apparent incongruity of the partnership, a genuinely beguiling piece of work which brought the singer a delicious cold collation of revenge when it reached number one in Australia - quite a change from when he first left his homeland, when his fans numbered at most between two to three hundred die-hard punks. Not surprisingly, he's quietly delighted with its success.

You only have to listen to the song to realise that it was a marriage made in heaven, really," he says of the duet. "To me, it was a perfect coupling of voices and characters. I'm immensely proud of that little episode in my creative life. It's something I've wanted to do for years, sing a song with Kylie Minogue." One of the LP's more haunting moments, it's the kind of song which would not have been out of place on the recent album of death songs from the man Cave acknowledges as "the master of the murder ballad", Johnny Cash.

Though he's grown bored with the genre, Cave was until recently a keen enthusiast of crime fiction, particularly the visceral novels of James Ellroy. The respect is apparently mutual: Ellroy, who dislikes most rock music on principle, gave Cave a signed copy of White Jazz bearing the inscription "Nick, feel those evil rock 'n' roll chords of doom. That song in Until the End of the World really kicked my ass!".

"For me, there is something enjoyable about writing violent stuff," Cave admits. "There's certain types of language that can be exciting to use, particularly in the song format, where descriptive violence really hasn't existed, apart from gangsta-rap, but even in those they generalise the act quite a lot, simply because songs are short things and you can't go into too much detail. What I found exciting about writing the Murder Ballads thing was creating songs where I could go into some detail about the savagery of the act."

Cave subscribes to the Manichean notion of fundamental good and evil operating within us all, but he abjures organised religion: indeed, the Murder Ballads album is unique within his canon of nine albums in featuring no preachermen. When I point this out, he is cheerfully aghast: "Good God! I should have murdered one of them, at least!" It's in this spirit, rather than with any moralistic or apocalyptic intention, that the album is intended to be taken.

"This record is chiefly a comic record, it's designed to be funny," Cave concludes. "It didn't start off that way, but as soon as we started to make it, it became clear that the whole idea was quite ludicrous, to be making an entire record like this. Maybe going out and finding a dozen traditional murder ballads might be fair enough, but to actually sit down and have to write all this stuff... it became a

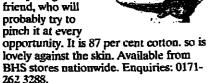
bit of a joke. But a sick joke, mercifully. Anything less would be quite out of character.

six of the best jumpers

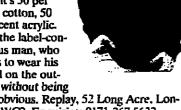
Margaret Howell, £130 John Smedley T-shirt, £50. The jumper is open weave navy linen, and has side vents. Layered over a Sea Island cotton "Second Skin" T-shirt, it looks effortlessly chic. This is perfect for the man who likes to feel casual

- but also likes to spend money to achieve the look. Margaret Howell, 24 Brook Street, London W1, Enquiries 0171-627 5587. John Smedley, enquiries 0171-734 1519.

A BHS, £20 Undeniably the best bar-gain of the lot. At only £20, this is an easy buy which will see you through sloppyjoe weekends, and will be a favourite with your girlfriend, who will probably try to pinch it at every

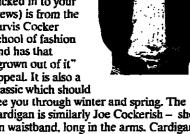


↑ Replay, £95 The Jumper suitable for a lads night out. It's big, comfy, cuddly, and it's 50 per cent cotton, 50 per cent acrylic. For the label-conscious man, who likes to wear his label on the out-



side without being too obvious. Replay, 52 Long Acre, Lon-don WC2. Enquiries: 0171-267 5632.

Woodhouse, £79.95 with French Con-T nection cardigan. £60. The jumper (which should be tucked in to your trews) is from the Jarvis Cocker school of fashion and has that "grown out of it" appeal. It is also a

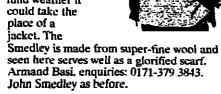


classic which should see you through winter and spring. The cardigan is similarly Joe Cockerish - short on waistband, long in the arms. Cardigan available from French Connection stores nationwide: enquiries 0171-580 2507. Woodhouse, enquiries: 0171-629 1254.

Assets, £85 This company is consis-U tently on the pulse with its laid back and tactile collections for men and women. This jumper, which is 57 per cent cotton. 30 per cent nylon and 13 per cent linen, is extremely comfortable, fluid,

and easy to wear with casual and pseudosmart clothes. Available from Assets, 29 Floral Street, London WC2. Enquiries 0171-625 8423.

Armand Basi, D£70 (John Smedley jumper around neck £65.) The Basi jumper was a bit itchy, but otherwise comfy and practical. In mild weather it could take the place of a jacket. The



The \$1,300 question

Would you fly 5,000 miles for a customised shopping experience? Christina Bloom did

phone my friend Janet in California. "I'm coming to do some shopping." "You're coming five thousand miles to go shopping?"
she asks, incredulous. "Why not.
I have Frequent Flyer miles to burn and a partner who's spent so much time Flying the Friendly Skies he's positively keen to spend a week minding the children."

"How about the Macy's cus-tomised shopping service, then?" says Janet, and sends me the details. The service is called "Macy's By

Appointment" and is managed by Joanna Chang. You call her to let her know which days and approximate times you'll be at Macy's and give her your size, type of merchandise you need, designer favourites and any restrictions you may have. The service provides everything from clothes and hats to household goods. "Do you have any sense of what

size you might be in US terms?" Joanna asks when I phone "Erm, a 12, maybe a 10," I reply. US sizes go down to six. "And five foot two," I add.

"So, petites," she says. "And cor-

porate, right?" "Yes, smart clothes. The real emergency is work clothes." I've been wearing the same red jacket for three years, and my skirts date back to the mid-Eighties. Joanna is reassuring.

San Francisco, and walking distance from one of the most expenit doesn't suffer from modesty: Macy's, Nieman Marcus, Saks Fifth are all here. Along the flowery other select establishments: Imaginarium ("A Toy Store Kids Can Handle"); A Pea in the Pod ingsmith ("A General Store for the Curious Mind").

I meet Joanna in her Macy's office, with its suite of private dressing rooms. She's prepared a splendid right, the hems are correct, the shoulders work without being tight across the bust. As they say in California, no journey is too long to find out who you are. I've discovered my true nature: US size 12, petite.

The clothes are stunning, designed for women who expect to be seen. Styles are imaginative, fabrics com-

Before you go customised shopping in the States...

Know the exchange rate. Carry a calculator, pre-programmed with the

Allow enough time. Spend a few hours looking round the store before your appointment. Then reckon on at east half a day for your consultation.

Pay by credit card rather than travellers' cheques. If anything goes wrong with the purchase the credit card company is your ally - and the exchange rate will probably be a little more favourable.

Don't

Overlook the effects of jet lag. Allow for rest after arrival. The serious shopper has sharp wits and an alert

Forget to leave time for a recovery period - and perhaps a bit of

Think you'll just walk away. Consider your transport arrangements and how you'll carry everything.

Five thousand miles later, I'm at with a jug of coffee and dainty bisthe Stanford Shopping Center. A cuits, we work hard. Joanna, medi-select mall in Palo Alto, not far from ating between dressing room and ating between dressing room and sales floor, is indispensable. She listens, advises and fine-tunes. Her sive private universities in the US, instincts and knowledge of stock are sound.

She finds me things I'd never think Avenue, Emporium and Nordstrom to look for. I try on an a tweedy jacket to discover that the fit's immaculate. boulevards with their cool fountains the style precisely Nineties and clev-("Recycled/Reclaimed Water as part erly understated and that the tweed, of Stanford Shopping Center's being a wool/silk mix, moulds itself water conservation"), there are winningly to my awkward 36E bust. An off-the-peg Jones of New York, it costs \$208 (£139). Joanna brings me a coordinating, tailored wool crepe ("Maternity Redefined"); Learn- skirt at \$88 (£58) and a matching silk shell, \$60 (£40). We find a Carole Little dress in a perky short pleated style and interesting Italian fabric for \$128 (£85) and a Carole Little knit suit in aquamarine, embellished with selection of clothes for me to try on. Intricate sparkly black beading for Incredibly, they fit. The waists are \$198 (£132). It's elegant and coolly comfortable; a soft skirt with elasticated waist and a well-shaped long

cardigan. Inevitably, my budget resolve begins to weaken. I can feel money melting. Joanna finds me a winter coat whose fit and style are heavenly: a double-breasted Kristen Blake in wool camel. "As it hapfortable and interesting. Fortified pens," she says, "I think that one a snip at \$48 (£32). Shop till you



\$180 (£120).

Four hours later. I've made my selection. "I'll total this up for you" says Joanna, coming back with a price of \$1,700. It's a moment which requires a steady nerve. "That's too much," I say. "What do you think I could leave?" Willingly, she helps me prune out non-essentials. I'm left with a bill of \$1,300 (£867), which includes: a Gianni blouse for \$90 (£60); a Charter Club Classics green wool blazer-cut jacket, lined with brown satin so that you can wear it with the cuffs rolled back, reduced from \$159 to \$99.99 (£66); black leather Bouliani shoes, \$69 (£46): a Liz Claiborne fleur-de-lis waistcoat,

comes at 30 per cent off." It costs drop? Not exactly. It's been pleasant, efficient, and honest.

The savvy shopper, though, doesn't stop there. I cruise the sales to flesh out the new look, stocking up in Emporium's "Career Sportswear" department with cotton and silk shirts, Jordache stretch jeans and leggings; matt silk knit polo shirts in wonderful hues at \$12 (£8) a throw; half-price Liz Claiborne summer wear: T-shirts and sweaters at under \$15 (£10) each in black, white and adventurous. For \$200 (£133) I have all the separates and casual clothes I could want. In the leather department I find a compact leather handbag for \$22 (£14), and a Michael Stevens soft brown leather satchel, ideal for A4

papers and complete with zips, compartments and pen-holders, for a mere \$14 (£9).

Then I drive down to leafy University Avenue and recover in an elegant café with coffee and a cinnamon roll.

HM Customs and Excise takes a dim view of people bringing goods into the country from and avoiding paying duty on them. The allowance you get is £136; above that, it's charged at 13.8 per cent duty, and then VAT is added to the total at 17.5 per cent (excluding children's clothes). At the prices I paid, it's still a win.

> Joanna Chang, Manager, Macy's By Appointment, 300 Stanford Center, California: (00 1 415 323 3578).

It is the flashy, things that sell best. Take jewellery: pretty little Georgian brooches are as undervalued as they were five years ago



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Drobably the world's finest museum collection of magic lanterns and slides is at Christie's South Kensington, Thursday (10.30am). The 159 lots were formerly exhibited in Llandrindod Wells, but some have been in public performances given by their owners, Doug and Anita Lear, throughout Europe and on their narrowboat. The magic lantern, a favourite in homes of all social classes and church halls between 1860 and 1910, became capable of surprisingly sophisticated effects: "stipping" slides could make the image of a man swallow a rat (a set of eight rat slides is estimated at £120-£180) and the "super threelens. Steward lantern restored by the Lears from gas and limelight to electric-ity (shown here) can dissolve between images and produce other special effects such as falling snow. Estimate: £15,000-£25,000.

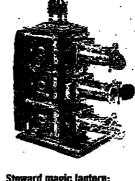
What is it about the taste of bidders in the Nineties that reminds us of the Eighties? As markets gather momentum again it is the flashy, conspicuous things that sell best. Take jewellery: pretty little Georgian brooches are as undervalued as they were five years ago. In Christie's fortnightly sale on Tuesday (2pm), the sort of flaunt-it gear that will walk out of the room is the big. Twenties sapphire and diamond brooch with bold. Art Deco geometric shape and "plenty of material" -

Estimate: £1,000-£1,500.

But look carefully at big. modern rocks and you might find hidden subtlety. In the sale there is a huge amethyst dress ring of the late Eighties or early Nineties, its bulk emphasised by a narrow, restrained setting of diamond-studded silver. It is reverse-cut (cut underneath) and has tiny ripples beaming iridiscence to the surface. Either sex could wear it. Although such a ring would have retailed at the turn of the decade for about £2,500, it is not the kind of thing that a rich trend-setter could wear indefinitely. This one is probably a cast-off. The estimate is £600-£800. Why pay high street dealer prices when you can pay the same prices they pay at auction? The proportion of private buyers at these down-market jewellery sales

is 30 per cent and rising. The bold and the novel will also fetch the best prices at the fortnightly British and continental ceramics sale at Christie's South Kensington. Thursday (10.30am). Estimated at £300-£400 despite slight wear and restoration - are two novelty Napoleonic coffee cans and two saucers showing "old Boney" with what looks like tattoos on his face. Closer inspection reveals his face to be a trompe l'oeil of nudes. his cocked hat an eagle and

his uniform a map of Leipzig. The pizazz principle is also pushing up prices for that is, crammed with stones. bold 19th century wares,



timated at £15,000-£25,000

notably Minton and Majolica. But there is the beginnings of a price revival in the more delicate English pottery of the late 18th and early 19th century (Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Swansea) which was once much loved but now as much in disfavour as Georgian silver. A bottle of bubbly to

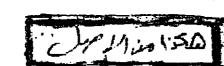
William Long of Loughton, Essex, for his wicked suggestion in our competition that an Evelyn Waugh bookplate should be stuck in a copy of the Watchtower omnibus to confuse literary historians. The 23 paper bookplates donated to a Sotheby's charity sale last month by Waugh's son, Auberon, fetched £310.

We also liked the wellpondered list of 19 titles from Philip Jaggard of Oxford. He evidently shares Mr Long's eagerness to rock assumptions about Waugh's Roman Catholicism. His list includes Elaine Pagels' "The Gnostic Gospels". He also listed E. Murphy's "Great Bordellos of the World" next to Nancy Mitford"s "Noblesse Oblige". Waugh is clearly an author who left much to the imagination.

John Windsor

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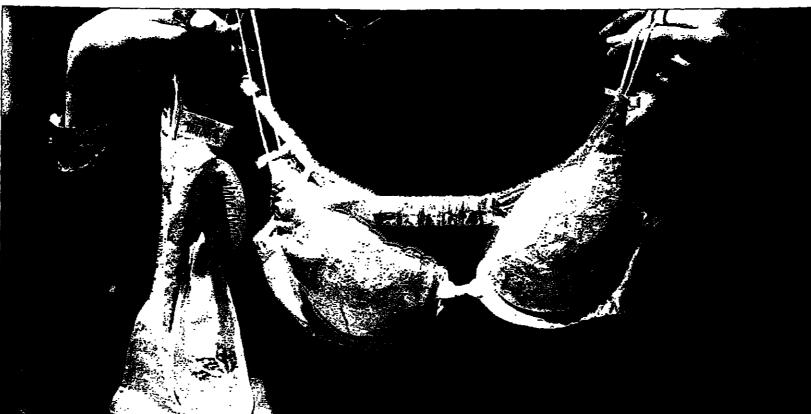
Queues at returns counters all through January have one main cause: the male's inability to learn from experience

By Louise Levene

ave you got a receipt?"
Of course you haven't got a receipt, it was a present for heaven's sake. You weren't supposed to know that your relationship with your sister-inlaw was priced at £4.99. It was a secret between her and her Access card. You know now, though, because after smiling and saying thank you you put it in your little pile of Things to Go Back. Why can't they just give you a gift token and have done with it? But rather than admit that your tastes are completely unfathomable, your friends and relations will instead gift wrap any old rubbish then hand it to you muttering "It's from Marks so you can always take it back if its too big/small/ mumsy". Those few words are fated to take hours off your life as you wait for your refund at what is laughingly known as Customer Services.

It's not their fault. The length of the queue is a reflection on neither their merchandise nor their staffing levels but on our abject failure to make simple choices between one product and the next. Some companies actively encourage customers to bring things back. The Books Etc chain ran an ad campaign based on its willingness to take back any book you didn't enjoy. Either the British public is very easily pleased, or it is happily furnishing its rooms with halfread books, because it appears to have passed up this invitation to use them as a lending library: as a bemused spokesperson puts it "there was remarkably little take-up on the money back guarantee". With one predictable stir-fried exception. ing perfectly sound merchan-Delia. Delia Smith's latest has been flooding back into the ability has its roots in a school of shops. "One poor woman had been given four copies" explain Waterstones.

That's Christmas for you. But there is another breed of shop- goods "on approval". Rather post-Christmas rush. Spot her every morning in the big stores bringing back bangles — and woe betide anyone who tries to stop her. This particular madam spends half her time humming and hahing over the stock and the other half effing and blind-



Many unhappy returns for Janet Reger: a flood of old ladies come in after Christmas wailing 'He still thinks I'm a 32B'

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

ing over the counter when she purchase. For her, the returning habit means she can spend twice herself. The returns racket reaches epic proportions with the wedding list market. Unscrupulous fiancés have been known to pen an extensive list then exchange the whole silverplated lot for hard cash.

The whole business of returndise on the grounds of unsuitretailing that went out with the eighteen hour girdle. Until frighteningly recently smart London shops were still supplying version of mail order. The next trick would be to return the lot saying that none of it was "suitable". The late Lady Rothermere was notorious for taking

goods (usually capacious shawls) returns her carefully selected on approval then sending the chauffeur back with them. Bubbles sometimes tried it on in as long at the shops at no cost to every sense as she was often spotted wearing the "unsuitable" garments in the society pages.

now commonplace. Everyone, it seems, shops in haste and returns at leisure. But never more so than after Christmas. January is the cruellest month for the retailers. Not only do they have to mark down all their unsold goods and cope with the rush of sale shoppers, they also have a stream of dissatisfied customers coming in clutching a partiallywrapped object that some wellmeaning person has used as a per whose spells at the returns than trying on clothes in the token present. The male counter are not confined to the shop like normal people, the rich human's failure to learn from would send a flunkey to collect experience is demonstrated boxes of the latest gear to try on anew each January when hordes at home - a sort of up-market of plump and disappointed women trudge into Knickerbox with their tales of woe.

"Men never really buy the right underwear for women explains Mrs Box. Furthermore, it back.

remember that spatial awareness thing that males are supposed to be so much better at? If they're so good at judging size by eye how do you explain the cup sizes they come up with? (This may also explain why they always This kind of behaviour is seem to buy the wrong amount of emulsion). "They want to compliment the woman so they buy a smaller size which then only makes her feel worse". And what is it about men and red underwear? "We get a lot of red

> cotton. The top half of the underwear market follows a similar pattern. Janet Reger's male clientele increases to 95 per cent during December. "Every single vear older guys buy underwea for their wives then a flood of old ladies come in after Christmas wailing "He still thinks I'm a 32B". So why doesn't she tell him her real size? Because then she wouldn't have the fun of taking

satin coming back. The guys

might like it but the girls bring

it back and exchange it for white

WHO'S RETURNING WHAT AT M&S?

I'm returning a jogging top. which was too short and I felt uncomfortable in it. I bought the bottoms with it, but they were fine. I've also got this polyester top which is just too tight across the back, so I want a refund on

Ros Norris, 32, Housewife I'm bringing back one of their teddy bears; I'm sorry, but I think it's ugly. It was a Christmas present, but I think it's got a horrible face, and I'm not having it. I've got the receipt so I'll have the money

My wife bought me some chino trousers before Christmas, which have a mark on the leg, so I want to change them. I didn't notice it in the shop, but I'm sure it's not my

Angela Baldwin, 42, Bank Clerk I got this underwear set for Christmas, which I'm bringing back because I just don't like it; it's not really what I go for. I also bought myself a jumper which I want to change for the smaller size.

Jan Dale, 46, Secretary I'm bringing back this dress, which I didn't try on in the shop because there was too big a queue for the changing room. I didn't think it suited me when I tried it, so I'm asking for my money back.

Eric Holt, 70, Pensioner My daughter bought me a pair of trousers for Christmas which I didn't really like. She said she wouldn't be offended if I wanted to change them for another pair and was happy to give me the receipt.

Interviews by Scott Hughes

the thing about...

Garden ornaments



The garden is in hiatus at this time of year and a patrol of your princely grounds is going to be eerily cold and wet. This is the time when horticulturists tuck themselves up with pads and graph paper and the works of Dr D G Hessayon and plot the future. Maybe this is the year when you finally install that piece of figurative art you always promised yourself.

But when is a gnome not a gnome? How do you distinguish between those things that will invite the sneers of the neighbours and those which will send them into ecstasies? However much we try to pretend we're immune to the opinion of the outside world, when it comes to our own homes everyone has a little bit inside them that wonders if people are describing them as "the sort of person who has a windmill".

So you could go for the safest bets: nothing in plastic, nothing that doesn't look like real stone. While classical nudes are absolutely fine, anything overtly sexy starts to tread on dangerous ground. Thus a 6ft-tall reconstituted stone Pan (£720, the Chelsea Gardener) can happily overwhelm with priapic irony, while that small Durastone sylph, head back and breasts flung forward in abandon ("Sultry Awakening". John Lewis group, £155) gives pause for thought, however well-executed.

Meanwhile, there is a solution that combines the sure-fire hit of classicism with that little touch of something unusual. Aura (0171-376 5532) does a lovely line in bits of famous statues. You can buy, for instance, the eyes and nose of Michelangelo's David - ingeniously adapted to hang from a wall - for upwards of £10. If Picasso had been doing gods, this is where he would have started. They also sell a plethora of statues with missing limbs. heads and features: the Venus de Milo effect taken to its logical extreme. Apollo, a little over two feet high sells at £45. Or if you like your heroes wholesome, a grumpy and bearded bust of Hercules sells at £250. He would make a perfect centrepiece for your water feature. Sadly, though, he doesn't come with a red cap and fishing rod.

Serena Mackesy

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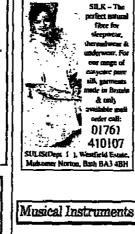


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Shopping



Good thing

Camilia Guinness hand printed and painted fabrics

Sick of your neutral coloured soft furnishings, practical wash bag and dull duvet? Replace them with Camilla Guinness's latest textiles, which take creepy crawlies as their theme. The range includes silk make-up bags (£10 plus p&p). cushions from £45, duvet covers from £45, and pillow cases £10 - all resplendent with dragon flies, bees, butterflies, and beetles.



Camilla Guinness, 126 Westbourne Grove, London W11 2RR (0171-221 7949)

Mad thing

Pure-tec sound pillow,

You yearn to be lulled to sleep by music but your partner doesn't. What do you do? Invest in a sound



pillow, of course. This pillow contains a pair of speakers, arranged so that only the person using the pillow can hear what is coming out of them. Plug in, lie back and drift off, for £16.95 including p&p.

Pure-tec, Isberg House, Kingston Street, Hull HU1 2DB

Checkout

Bureau, 10 Great Newport Street, London WC2H 7JA (0171-379 7898)

What is it? London's latest stationery shop and it's stuffed to the gills with everything under the stationery umbrella. In short, the Conran Shop meets Ryman. It's clean and bright with walls of colour on either side as you walk in: stationery in primary colours on the left, patterns on the right.

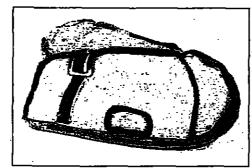
What should I buy there? The selection of stylish company Biella (from 99p). For the new term you can buy Disneycharacter rucksacks (£9.99) and matching pencil cases (£2.99). For serious stationery, there's all manner of sober office

What else? Buy your stamps, write a card, wrap a present even - all at a table set out for customers. Helpful staff will even post your letters and, if not too busy, wrap your presents.

Best buys: Bureau's ownbrand disposable fountain pens. highlighters, roller balls and felt-tips. Brightly coloured A4 two-drawer filing cabinets (£59.95). don't buy A4-size cabinets and certainly not in these colours. Bureau went ahead anyway and the cabinets have been walking out of the shop ever since.

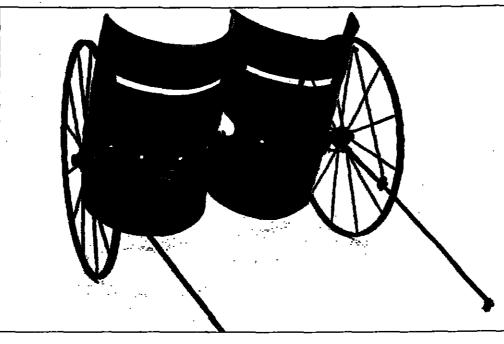
What price a pair of buoyant gloves?

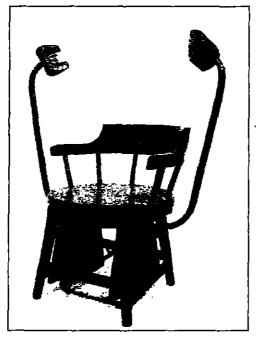
Thousands of American inventions lie unopened in warehouse crates. John Windsor lifts the lid on a few

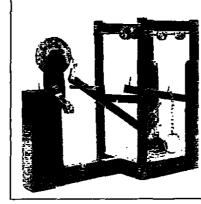












From top, left to right: improved lavatory paper printed with advertisements; Civil-War charlot with defective metal shields; 138-year-old model workstation with built-in bellows: excercise machine (1873)

uring the 44 years before 1880 American inventors were required to submit models with their patent applications. About a quarter of a million of them, each no more than 12 inches long - for improved mousetraps, washing machines, life-preserving coffins - crammed the Patent Office in Washington, a testimony to the world's most innovative nation but an embarrassment to the government.

After Congress voted to get rid of them in 1907 a few thousand were bought by museums such as the Smithsonian Institution. Tens of thousands were sold off for a few cents each or accidentally destroyed by fire. To this day, tens of thousands more are in unopened crates in warehouses. Over 4,000 from a private collection,

together with their documentation, are to be auctioned by Christie's East in New York on Tuesday 23 January in the first of a series of six sales. For an estimated \$350-\$450 you could become the owner of an improved pair of swimming gloves, made buoyant with cork (1879), or a pack of improved lavatory paper — with printed advertisements (\$250-\$350).

There is a model of Thomas Edison's carboniser for light bulb filaments (1881) at \$50,000-\$60,000. Or would you prefer a blast-producing chair at \$7,500-\$9,000? The swivel seat pumps bellows blowing cool air to the head. It is a 138-year-old precursor of modern office workstations.

The 350 inventions in the sale were the first to see daylight when the sale's two cataloguers, from Christie's South Kensington, were ushered into a storage hangar by the collection's owner, Cliff Petersen, a 72-year-old

aerospace consultant of Phoenix, Arizona. Mr Petersen had already donated 30,000 models to the United States Patent Model Foundation. He said: "T've been a virtual prisoner of this collection for two decades. but it has given me the greatest fun I've ever had. So many interesting stories!".

The choice of Christie's London is a measure of British expertise in cataloguing scientific models. Tom Rose is an expert on model locomotives, ships and road vehicles, Jeremy Collins on scientific instruments. Mr Rose said: "Unwrapping those models was a complete knockout".

Here was America's machine age documented in miniature. The models - some professionally made - are a poignant research them before they are auctioned. when everyone, from log cabin to White House, was an inventor. The wooden model for Abraham Lincoln's "improved manner of buoying vessels over shoals" of 1849, with adjustable air chambers, is in the total \$300,000-\$400,000. We shall see. Smithsonian. But the sale offers Clara Bartelett's improved sidesaddle with vari-

able horns. When it was patented in 1864, her home town, Ferndale, California, was barely settled. A well-adjusted saddle horn between the thighs could be a comfort if surprised in hostile territory.

In those days servants were scarce, except in the South. The household inventions of the time, a good number by women, reflect the yearning to have done with drudgery and get on with the piano lessons. By 1873 there were more than 2,000 patents for hand-cranked washing machines. The sale has plenty of improved boot trees, fresh food processors and garden swings - vestiges of the rural settlers dream of the orderly homestead. The inventors have God-fearing names such as Aaron, Elias, Obadiah.

The sale's crazicst invention: twin metallic shields on wheels to protect military riflemen in the Civil War year, 1864 (\$1,800-\$2,200). The two men between the shafts would have been picked off in no time. Likewise, the picture hook of 1880 with a wheel for the wire - capable of sending pictures skidding all over the wall.

Inventions before their time, besides the blast-producing chair: an exercise machine of 1873 (\$1,500-\$2,000) and an ice house of 1877 - an early example of a shipping

container (\$1,000-\$1,200). It was Mark Twain who epitomised the lone inventor of the 19th century. "I could make anything", he wrote: "If there wasn't any quick new-fangled way to make a thing I could invent one - and do it as easy as rolling off a log". In those days, new-fangledness was not frowned upon. The theme of the New York Crystal Palace exhibition, held two years after the Great Exhibition in London of 1851, was not science and art but "Cunning Devices". No wonder Americans became gadget addicts.

Ironically, all American patent models are useless. In 1836, when the law re-introduced inspection for novelty, the models that patent officers had begged as a hedge against defective drawings became obsolete - but compulsory.

By 1908 2,700 crates containing 155,000 unwanted models had been humped out of the Patent Office - where some display cases had been jammed shut with them and dumped in a livery stable. That was after 86,000 had gone up in flames in two fires at the Patent Office. By 1926, 15,000 models bought by a dealer were being hawked from pushcarts on the streets of New York for 25c each, a photograph shows an Edison model among them. Fire claimed 15,000 more in 1943. They were part of a purchase of 110,000 by an auctioneer, O Rundle Gilbert, who traded in them. Mr Petersen bought Mr Gilbert's cobbled together on kitchen tables, others remaining 800 crates in 1979. He will

So who really wants American patent models? Not many, it might seem. But the market for Americana is booming and these have had Christie's curatorial skills lavished upon them. The sale's estimates

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Hello? Cher? Whitney? Oh, Emma, hi

Top Hollywood agent Nicole David wants the very best for her clients. And she won't get off the phone until she's got it. By Daniel Jeffreys. Photograph by Richard Poley

about the scripts." David has already been on the go since 5.45am.

As she drives, the LA landscape slips by. Beverly Drive turns into Rodeo and then Wilshire Boulevard. Everything is movie-clean, especially the sleek building that houses the prestigious William Morris Agency on El Camino, just behind the Beverly Wilshire Hotel where Julia Roberts played Pretty Woman to Richard Gere's lost soul.

Roberts and Gere are not represented by David, but if they were they'd be keeping pretty good company. As a senior agent at the William Morris Agency she now has charge of a powerhouse client list - including Emma Thompson, Whitney Houston. Cher, Patrick Swayze, Roseanne and John Travolta. Nicole David is hot. A five-foot bundle of energy with a laugh-ing smile, she is one of Hollywood's most powerful citizens.

On this sunny morning David has a hot young actress has got pregnant, just as her career was about to take off. Nicole can't get the starlet to come to the telephone, a most unusual occurrence. It seems the woman's boyfriend is screening all calls.

'I can't understand why some women allow a man to take over their careers ton's production company. The three but I've had this before, a client getting pregnant because she won't face up to the issues in her life. The last time it happened it was more difficult - the actress had just been nominated for an Oscar."

When I next see David she is running around a New York hotel room explaining her relationship with her clients ("I think you have to be in love with them, just a little and they will give you some of that back") before attending the premiere of Waiting to Exhale, which stars client Whitney Houston.

means he can do something hip."

The conversation is three-way. David hand. "Then I need to talk with Gene he was and is a fine actor. That makes me a little sick.")

> As premiere time approaches, she's a little nervous. People magazine and Entertainment Weekly both have Housinside. "The relationship with the client is like parenting," she says. "When this kind of shit happens it is upsetting. I know the person is not like this and I li have to work with her so she doesn't take it too personally.

> place. Thompson is a platinum property now and so David has a tricky problem. There are hundreds of projects on offer but she must choose which one will best allow Thompson to capitalise on her success.

My job is to help the client understand their ambition," says David. These are amazingly talented people but some can't define their dreams. problem. It goes with the territory. A others can get that far but then can't make the right decisions to get to the

> David never stops. In New York, she makes calls constantly as we talk until it's time to meet another William Morris agent in the bar along with Debo-rah Chase, who runs Whitney Houswill go to Whitney's premiere together and plenty of business will be done through the evening. She's permanently on call for a client list that spans many time zones of potential trouble; David's weekends are spent watching movies and reading scripts.

At 11am on a Monday she's trying to make her reading bear fruit. New York has been closed by a blizzard so she has a little more time for problemsolving. She is discussing two young stars with a female colleague in Manin New York and that means many in their careers. "That would be just the am in love with my client's work, not is a private company. Sources say its is now the worldwide head of the place to realize their dreams."

t's 8am on a sunny California morn-hours in airplanes. ("I get tired." she wrong project." she says, referring to ing and Nicole David is on the says, "but that would never make me one script on her list. "We have to find phone. She's almost always on the give up. The only time I think of quit- something that makes everyone aware there when a relationship makes an phone. "Can you get me Cher and ting is when all the game-playing gets how he's developed. I have no problem actor late for the set or makes him miss then call New York about Whit- to me. A year ago I couldn't get calls slashing his price to smithereens if it

> The conversation is three-way. David to New York from LA and, in her office, an assistant listens to every word, a special device on the phone silencing his mouthpiece. As they work the list. Steve signals and offers advice. ton front covers with negative articles His job is to have on hand all the information David could ever need as she works without pause. Outside the door there's Cat Carter, the other assistant who is planning David's schedule for months ahead.

So you got an offer for \$1m?" she The telephone rings; Emma Thomp-son's on the line. David lowers her answer is vague. "Get a clear fix on asks of New York. "Is that firm?" The voice and a hushed conversation takes place. Thompson is a platinum propagation offer." Which they often aren't. This being Hollywood, there are lots of variables and this million-dollar deal is dependent on the choice of director. In Beverly Hills speak that's not a "real" deal.

They move on, covering a list of over 50 potential movies. Struggling screenwriters should be allowed to sit in on the process. They'd find it's not enough to write a good script. The "project" has to surface when the right actors, directors and producers are in place to do the work. As David rejects script after script, she says many are great projects, they just don't match what the market and the clients need right now.

Back in the car and the telephone's glued to her ear. "When will Penny Marshall start to shoot? I know it was supposed to be today but there's too much snow." She makes a left-turn. "Anyway, I want flowers from us to Penny and I want flowers sent from Whitney to Denzel Washington." The film is The Preacher's Wife starring Washington and Houston, directed by Marshall. David wants the relationship between all parties to start and finish in good shape. Attention to detail. It's

the first rule of agency work. David admits that the personal lives She spends about a quarter of her year hattan; both are at a delicate moment of the stars can become a big issue. "I now ranked number two and climbing.

their private dramas but I'm right in has to sort out a director who has rejected a client because he missed an audition. The excuse offered of a had cold satisfies neither David nor the director but she does her best.

If somebody is determined to fuck up I can't stop that," she says. "Actors are responsible for their own destiny. You can work as hard as anything but you can't prevent failure."

Riding success is a different question and David is now trying to repeat last vear's golden harvest. Clients John Travolta, Emma Thompson and Patrick Swayze have all been nominated for prestigious Golden Globe Awards, which some say are Hollywood's "upmarket Oscars". This presents its own problems. "If they all win, who the hell am I going to sit next to?" quips David. but the trickier question is which project each should accept next.

'It's all a question of how best to position the client to best realise their ambitions, given what we know about their talents." As she says this she tosses a script directed at Patrick Swayze into the waste basket. "That would be no good. It's exactly the kind of piece of shit which would really hurt him.

Emma Thompson poses fewer problems. If all goes well, her next project is fixed, so long as David can get Thompson to read the script, "She's resting now and hard to get hold of and she needs that but it's slowing something down. I just tell people they have

to be understanding."

The success of David's list brings enormous power. She can influence how a script is written and she has often requested a movie he changed when she believes it did not do her client justice. That's why she goes to so many screenings and reads so many scripts. "I like to put out fires before they start," she says.

The agency business involves big money. The William Morris Agency,

cent William Morris would have earned \$200 million. But Hollywood is no end and back-end deals, it's hard to bly bank over £275m for 1995.

win, promote and keep clients. But not at any cost. "This is not a bad script." she says to one client on the telephone. "But the negative for me is the direcof our clients." With a flick of the wrist another script becomes bin-lining.

With her assistants, David goes back to working her "list", the three-page colto make so that Tinsel Town can build more fantasies and make more money. "Look." she says speaking for one client. "I don't thìnk you making an offer of \$5 million will move her. That alone won't get her attention and make her read the script. I don't need you to make an offer. What I need is for you to get a great director involved."

In one hour, David rebuffs a £5m offer, insists that a client gets to approve script and leading man, eight projects and gets on the case of a client who is causing problems. "She's way too self-involved which is not interesting," she insists down the phone. "She needs to get passionate about something. She's not another Emma Thompson so she needs to develop some other strengths."

David is now 54 and has been in the business all her working life. A high school drop-out, born in Canada, she began her career as an actress, appearing in The Trouble with Girls starring Elvis Presley. In Los Angeles, David met Arnold Rifkind, who was working as a shoe salesman. Combining her understanding of actors and his sharp business mind they formed a small talent agency: a series of smart moves brought them to the Triad agency. which William Morris bought three years ago. Both are now rich (Rifkind

David). David is married to a successful defence attorney-turned-songwriter. a casting call." Back in her office, she longer that simple. With complex front. She has no children. "I thought about having them for exactly one hour and judge what the agency makes. Informed that was just because the guy was so experts say William Morris will proba- cute. I would not be good at having kids and I know having them would make The pressure is on for the agents to me a worse agent. But the quality of mothering is used in every aspect of my

> Arnold Rifkind agrees and says that's a key strength of David. "Men tor and I say that even though he's one can identify types, like 'Suave Italian' or 'Rugged American' but they tend to ignore the less obvious. Instead of asking, 'What do the studios or networks want?' women spend time developing lection of telephone calls she just has their clients' careers from the inside out. It's a great skill and Nicole is the master practitioner. In this business you are only as good as the people you represent and Nicole has made her people so much better by giving them somebody to trust."

> Rifkind believes that David will be impossible to replace, if she ever retires. "When we met, Nicole really had nothing that would qualify her as an agent but then the industry was smaller, you could start something and demands from for another client, rejects make it succeed. Now with the dominance of big agencies there's a tendency to play safe, so the next generation of agents will all be lawyers."

Back in the car heading for Sushi in Santa Monica, David has barely pulled away before calling her assistants so they can connect her to the constellation of talent. "Close your ears," she says. "I have to tell a client he didn't get a part. It could get ugly." The calls continue all the way to the restaurant. By the time we arrive the client has been let down lightly and a new movie has been put into development. Not a bad day's work; it took 20 minutes.

As the Mercedes is valet-parked David grows philosophical. "Some people, like Arnold, they love chasing the deal. For me that is nowhere near the satisfaction of making a fantasy come true. After all, that's why they built this town - so crazy people would have a



Mr Motivator is there. How exactly does he plan to lead us into the 21st century?

Leaders Into the 21st Century photography exhibition at the Mall Galleries, I glance behind me and see Mr Motivator, GMTV's workout king, chatting away with June Whitfield over a glass of champagne. How sweet. I think for them to be here with the rest of us to salute those who will guide our nation into the Millennium. And then I realise the truth: Mr Motivator, and the such, are part of the exhibition, too. They are, as far as Charles Green, the photographer, is concerned. our exemplary leaders as well. Yes: the list is diverse and very weird: Professor

Major and Flowella Benjamin (Play Away). "How do you intend to lead us into the

vear 2001?" I ask Flowella. "Well." she replies. "With a smile." "I must admit that I am very surprised to be included," confesses Jack Tinker, the

Daily Mail's theatre critic. "Well," I say, "You are the Daily Mail's

leading theatre critic. Yes," he says, merrily, "That's very kind

of you to say so. Yes. Thank you." "Look," I say, "There's Betty Boothroyd talking to Bob Holness." "I know," replies one of Mr Motivator's

s I walk into the grand opening of the Stephen Hawking and Faith Brown, John party. "How the hell did he make it to the "Well." I say. "He was the first James

"It's true." says Bob Holness. "I was the

very first James Bond. On the radio. 1958. 1 did Moonwalker. Way before Sean Connery. Shih. Here comes the speeches." "Well," says the man from Kodak, the sponsor. "Kodak are proud to sponsor

such a marvellous event, for we are leaders, too. Market leaders, leading you into the 21st century. Thank you very much." There is applause.

"Well," says Charles Green, the pho- come and visit us at our residential unit. the party. It is Esther,

tographer, "I'd like to thank Kodak and Our patients watch TV all the time and ust say that Kodak Gold is the Rolls-Royce of camera film. And I'd just like to say one thing to Baroness Thatcher. I know why you've decided to make your big speech tonight at the Keith Joseph memorial lecture. It's sour grapes because you

weren't asked to be in the exhibition!" Mr Motivator, Flowella Benjamin and

June Whitfield all applaud. "Well," says the lady from the Haversham Trust for people with learning difficulties. "I'd just like to say one thing to all the famous people here today. Please almost like sceing ourselves wander into

they love absolutely everyone on it."

There is applause. "Order, order," says Betty Boothroyd.

I now declare this exhibition open!"

There is applause. Suddenly the doors are flung open and a saintly - eerily familiar - sight wanders inwards. When I first see her, I think, a little oddly: "My God. It's my mother." But it isn't my mother. It is a celebrity who transcends celebrity. It is a woman who is so much a part of all our lives that it is

There is a hush. The cameraman from Channel One turns, as if hypnotised to film her, but gets so close that he knocks Desmond Wilcox's glasses right off his face with his camera lead and they fly down the stairs. Esther grins graciously and puts down her handbag to help retrieve the glasses. The photographer from the Evening Standard rushes forward to get a picture and accidently kicks Esther's bag. sending her private things flying across the carpet. Well all watch, mesmerised, Esther looks down and looks up at us all. It is as if time has frozen. Then she smiles, graciously, and makes her way into the crowd,

TELEVISION

999 Special (BBC1)

Unwatchable without brandy, a catheter and a coathanger, says Jasper Rees

ost of the 999's reconstructions can be survived with a box of tissues, suitable for mopping up sweat, tears and, in those rescues involving heights, blood. But this solitary prop would have been pitifully inadequate for the latest 6000 Special. No vicines would have got latest 999 Special. No viewer would have got through it without a makeshift survival kit consisting of a generous measure of brandy, a catheter and a coathanger.

By a bizarre coincidence these were precisely the tools used in this week's life-saving mission, in which Professor Angus Wallace operated mid-flight on Paula Dixon, whose lung was punctured by a broken rib in a motorbike accident just before she boarded a plane from Hong Kong to London. The professor used the brandy to sterilise the coathanger wire, which he inserted inside the catheter to guide it into the patient's chest and drain it of air.

The viewer, however, put the kit to more conventional use. The brandy performed its tradi-tional role. The catheter allowed you to stay put during a programme that made fierce demands on the bladder. And the coathanger was just the thing for hanging up your preconceptions about a morally shabby programme.

As soon as the tale of Professor Wallace's extraordinary operation circulated the global newsroom, the team from 999 must have known this was the big one. It was a tough reconstruction, but performable. No previous rescue story can have been so well-documented, but then no other tellers of the tale had Michael Buerk on board. They flew him straight out to Honkers and converted him into a kind of Sophoclean chorus who commented on the narrative as it unfolded next to him. He even handed over the newspaper that Wallace used to pad the patient's arm splinter.

The participants, meanwhile, were doing their bit to compress, shape and tidy up a drama that, as real life can be, was just that little bit messy. "My name's Angus," said the helpful Prof, giving an otherwise realistic performance as himself, to his neighbour on the plane. Meanwhile, Paula found that her scheduled flight had no more smoking seats. It's not entirely likely she uttered the prophecy, "I'll never survive that." Still, a rare case of Smoking Saves Lives.

Operation Coathanger is such an extraordinary story that no amount of heavy-handedness could ruin it. Even the actress playing Paula for the operation gave a much more resonant performance than 999 usually delivers. Was that her chest wall you saw the scissors penetrating? If so, no wonder Paula chose not to portray herself.

Paula still has a phobia about coathangers, though otherwise she seems to have got off scarfree. When she flogged her story to a tabloid, it was because "This was my best way of saying thank you. As well as me making a little bit of money." Though not necessarily in that order. "I love them all," she said of her saviours, and ducked out of shot in a sudden attack of the sobs as the camera faded, the credits rolled and an invisible caption scrolled across the screen: made you cry.

OPERA The Makropulos Case, Metropolitan Opera, NY

It couldn't have got off to a worse start: delayed first by the death of a tenor and then by a snowstorm. But when Janacek's opera finally opened, it found Jessye Norman on top form. By David Patrick Steams



Jessye Norman: glamorous, but still able to convey Emilia Marty's emotional weariness

Photograph: Winnie Klotz / Metropolitan Opera

ven before its debut production at the Metropolitan Opera, Janacek's The Makropulos Case had an air of evil luck: at the performance on 5 January, the tenor Richard Versalle, singing the role of Vitek, dropped dead from a heart attack in the first scene, prompting immediate cancellation. The 8 January performance was cancelled by the worst snowstorm to hit New York in 48 years. Some viewers refused to return on 10 January. "Are you kidding?" one

superstitious critic told me. "I wouldn't go near that place."

Such sentiments - which weren't isolated - indicated how Versalle's public death was profoundly disquieting, breaking the theatre's "fourth wall" with an unexpected confrontation with one's own mortality. That's ironic considering it's an opera that tells us to welcome and enjoy mortality. Its central character diva Emilia Marty - has been denied death by an arcane formula that's kept her alive for three centuries. The result is a person who lives with nearly unimaginable levels of cynicism, loneliness and impatience. Janacek characterised such emotional states vividly with a score full of his characteristically feverish ejaculations of rhythm, shorn of the ingratiating folk influences found in other operas and deployed with a swiftness that allows the piece to approximate the speed of spoken theatre.

It's tough on all fronts, though Elijah Moshinsky's production brilliantly established a believable context for this odd plot by treating it as a film noir with stylish but chilly sets designed by Anthony Ward, clearly inspired by vintage Fritz Lang movies. Marty begins as a familiar film type - a flamboyant woman of mystery, moving with feline grace, wearing leopard-skin gloves and maintaining inscrutability behind sunglasses. When Marty

confesses her past in the final scene and chooses death over another dose of the formula, the production becomes fussy: Moshinsky tried to give it a *Don Giovanni* style, ending with an enlarged rendering of the formula going up in flames around Marty. It seemed contrived and clumsy.

Musically, there were a number of clumsy moments as well. Though conductor David Robertson etched long musical arcs, the Met orchestra lacked a sense of authority. Even in a singable English translation, the score sat uneasily on the non-Czech cast, though there were successes where one would least expect them. The great Wagnerian character tenor Graham Clark (as Albert Gregor) was the only one who really cracked it, though Donald McIntyre, a seasoned Wotan, came close with his superbly enunciated characterisation of Dr Kolenaty.

The role of Marty reportedly caused Jessye Norman much anxiety, which is understandable considering that her large, lyrical voice just wasn't built to sing Janacek's rhythm, and much of Act 1 lies in the weakest part of her voice. Still, she had some fine musical moments in her final confession. And even if she's too ladylike to swill whiskey convincingly, it was one of her most effective acting efforts. Though she could hardly look more glamorous and delivered the character's arrogance with good, bitchy humour. Norman showed the character's emotional weariness and physical frailty from the earliest scenes. That made Marty more integrated, intriguing and human - a remarkable feat for a character based on a superhuman idea.

THEATRE Erections, Ejaculations, Exhibitions Paul Taylor goes for a quiet evening out at the Islington Old Red Lion

ust opened at the Old Red Lion, a double-bill cryptically entitled Erections Ejaculations Exhibitions and The Suck Machine. As we reviewers often say: even if you don't have a child to take along, just go. Only kidding. On the other hand, I'd be loath to describe this unsurprisingly packedout production by Canada's Way Off Broadway Theatre Company as an entirely adult entertainment, "Graphic images of sex ... but no actual sex", commented a man perusing the poster on the way in. "Images of sex, sex - amounts to the same thing these days" was his friend's rueful reply. It proved to be one of the evening's wittier and more up-to-date remarks.

Adapted from the writings of the (dead) Beat poet Charles Bukowski, the show starts off with a frank look at the ups and mostly downs of the relationship between Harry (superb Michael Schaldemose) and Connie (Deb Pickman), a couple of alcohol-abusing losers. "Ya no, I do well on the sex quizzes," is gravel-voiced Harry's chat-up line in the nervy seduction scene. He shows her a Polaroid of an ejaculating penis and, when she's been encouraged to evince sufficient wonder at

it, he solemnly admits it's his. Things start to get vicious when Harry emerges as a greenhorn in the cunnilingus department. He contemplates the task with the strained expression of a man who, having just lost his dentures. is then confronted with an ducking-for-apples contest. A man's dream, he confides "is a whore with a gold tooth and a garter belt" who is prepared to do the dishes and only stay a week. Precariously balanced between being an indulgence and a critique of that attitude. Erections shows Harry eventually shacking up with a department store mannequin, just as the second piece climaxes, soto speak, as two violent hobos resort to the epony-mous machine on the grounds that, with it, there's 'no cortex, no shit, no arguments".

The in-your-face intensity and comic flair of the acting and of Michael Wener's production goes some way towards compensating for the depressingly conventional underlying thought. The seedy mosaic of murder-rape-and-necrophilia fantasies in the second half does, however, provoke one or two intriguing perceptions. There's a scene in which a down-and-out wino is forced by his criminal sidekick to "prove that he's a man" by forcing another man to give him oral sex. A paradoxical proof, I'd have thought. A woman is, in some senses, lucky she doesn't have equivalent equipment whereby she can "prove she's a woman" - but then, when you change the gender in that phrase, its inherent absurdity is quickly exposed.

The show won't win many fans for Bukowski's verbal skills. There's the odd bit of dexterity, as in the antiphonal exchange in the first piece that plays around with various meanings of "feeling like": "I feel like we ought to pay the rent", "I feel like going on for ever", "I feel like you could" etc. Indeed, it sometimes felt like they could.

Booking: 0171-837 7816. To 10 Feb

EXIT POLL Seven

Critics have raved about it: Sheila Johnston thought it would be in her 1996 top 10. But what do cinema-goers make of the serial-killer death-fest?

CYNTHIA MURRAY, 29, ADVERTISING REP I wouldn't normally come to this kind of thing; I tend to stay away from these gruesome films. I suppose I only came because Brad Pitt was in it, but it really is amazing, and he's proved himself a good actor.

BRIAN HOLMES, 35, RETAIL MANAGER It really takes you over, towards the end you're gripping the armrests and shrinking back in your seat. It's rare to see something that absorbing; yes,

it's a fantastic film.

MARK DEERING, 27, INVESTMENT Banker

It's got to be the best film I've seen in a long time, probably because it's genuinely shocking. This type of thing's usually so predictable, but you never quite know where this is going to go. They end it brilliantly.

PRIYA GUREWAL, 20, STUDENT

Despite all the unpleasantness, it was terrific. I thought it was a really dark. bleak film, though it has just enough touches of humour to get you through the gloom.

CAROLINE LAPPER, 22, NURSERY NURSE MARIA HURST, 28, SALES ASSISTANT The tension's almost unbearable. It's really clever the way it just shows you

bits and pieces - photos and stuff and you end up wanting to see more, even though it's all really grim. I suppose that's what makes it so good.

MICHAEL BALFORD, 39, CIVIL ENGINEER I really liked it, and I'm pleased because it's been so hyped up. I thought I might be disappointed, because you so often are with these things, but it turned out to be fantastic. Genuinely worth seeing.

I'm quite shaken up, actually: it's all rather stomach-churning, but you can't help but be impressed by it. I came with my boyfriend, and I suppose it's not really a "date" film. but, yes, it's very, very good, even if you tend to feel queasy in parts.

SEAN BECKETT, 23, ACCOUNTS CLERK

The best thing is that it never cops out. It goes for the downbeat option all the way, and it works. It has to be one of the most gruesome films I've ever seen, and that's not a criticism.

AARON MASTERS, 21, STUDENT

It's great, and it seems to have everything: good story, character, dialogue, music. It's most effective in the parts where they're finding the bodies, and the camera's searching frantically around; you're wondering what exactly they're going to find. It's nasty, but it's all brilliantly done.

GEOFF WRAY, 41, PLUMBER

It's hard to sum it all up, really; it just gets to you. I think I need a drink now. It's not because it's gory actually they don't always show you

that much - so I suppose it's more to do with the way they tell the story. And it's a good story.

ELAINE MACDONALD, 32, WORKS FOR A PUBLISHING COMPANY

Morgan Freeman's always excellent, and I suppose it's the best thing Brad Pitt's done. It all looks really good, too: all the rain and the grime really adds to the whole effect. All rather dark and depressing, maybe, but I guess that's the intention.

THE CONCERT

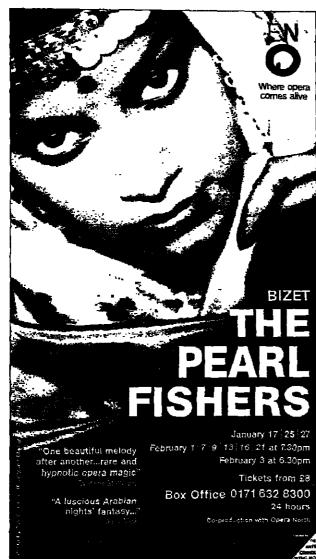
JOAN RODGERS

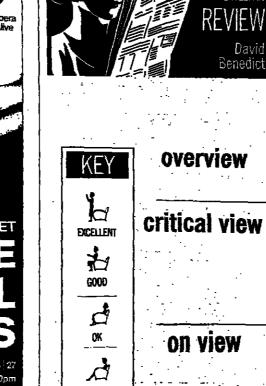
The penultimate pair of concerts in the Wigmore Half's maninoth. The Britten Songs

series included his Pushkin setting The

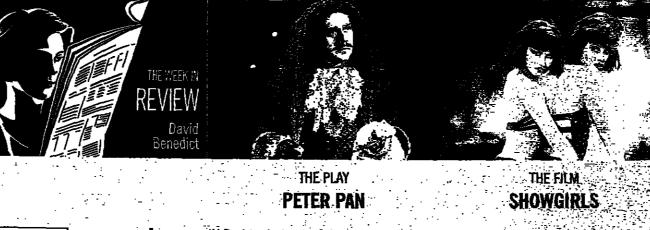
Poet's Echo, sung by Joan Rodgers.

Interviews by Scott Hughes





POOR



JM Barrie's classic, usually wheeled out with a superannuated actress in tights, in a new production by Matthew Warchus, designed by Rob Howell and starring John Padden.

Jeffrey Wainwright was captivated. "The wonder of Rob Howell's overall design... John Padden's excellent Peter... just go." "An actor whose tacial expressions mysteriously hint at some unearthly, elemental force", marvelled the . Times. "Bravura staging, a pretty big adventure", applauded the Independent on Sunday. "Warchus's dream-like production", cheered the Telegraph.

At the West Yorkshire Playhouse (0113-244 2111) until 3 Feb.

Joe Eszterhas became Hollywood's highest-paid scriptwriter with X-rated tale of Nomi; a lap-dancer who dreams of topless success without sacrificing integrity. Of course.

Adam Mars-Jones voted it worse than the same team's Basic Instinct: "All About Everemade by Paul Raymond". "Peppered with lines you cannot believe survived the wastepaper basket ... scrapes bottom in all senses, "gasped the FT. "A miserable folly", groaned the Times. "Dismal", concluded the Telegraph. "Most depressing film of the year, and it's only January," opined Time Out.

At a cinema near you... but not for long.

Anthony Payte was utterly convinced. Joan Rodgers' interpretive subfletles are perfectly matched at the keyboard. an evening for both artists to recall with satisfaction. recital of untailing interest and reward agreed the Guardian. "A sophisticated, his intelligent, flawlessiy artistic presentation eulogised the Times.

Hot young talent lan Bostridge sings the final concert in the Wigmore Hall Britten series (0171-935 2141) on 24 Jan.

An accompanying child is not a necessary requirement for this excellent piece of theatre.



The poster is clever, if tawdry. The film? Merely tawdry. What is Kyle McLachlan doing in It?

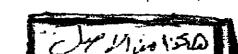


Another triumph for London's finest concert hall, if you've never been, check









A black hole in fiction

When space exploration is in the ascendant, science fiction takes a dive (and vice versa). Now after 'Apollo 13', the ultimate real-life space drama, how do the writers fight back? By John Gribben



programme is in trouble, or at least suffering a hiatus. The great days of science fiction were in the Forties and Fifties, with writers such as Robert Heinlein and Arthur C. Clarke. the magazine Astounding, Dan Dare, and Journey into Space. Space was mysterious and exciting, a canvas broad enough to encompass the speculations of even the most vivid imagination. But in the Sxities people actually went into space. By the end of that decade, men had walked on the moon, and, for many, the magic went away.

John Clute, editor of the Encyclo*pedia of Science Fiction*, has called this intrusion by the real world "the profound tragedy of science fiction." Starting with Sputnik, which smashed the theatre of space, things were never the same again. Many SF readers experienced almost a sense of déjà vu when the moon landings actually happened. coupled with a sense of anticlimax. In Britain, in particular, a new kind of science fiction, the "New Wave", was developed by writers such as J. G. Bal-

had dystopian elements, a disillusion not just with space but with what was happening on Earth as well, that persisted right through the Seventies.

Elsewhere, the backlash against space fiction took different forms. The hugely successful Star Wars trilogy, released in the late Seventies and early Eighties, might look superficially like space fic-tion, but is really just cowboys and Indians in space, mindless entertainment (nothing wrong with that, but if there is one thing good SF is not, it is mindless) that never - unlike, sav. 2001: A Space Odyssey - addresses deep issues.

Of course, there were exceptions to the antipathy about space engendered in many writers by the moon landings. Doris Lessing, for example, says that the Moon still retained its romance for her, in spite of "pompous remarks" about taking a giant leap for mankind. But then, perhaps she is not a typical space fiction writer: "I didn't know I was writing space fiction at all. It never crossed my mind that I was writing space fiction until some magazine said lard and Michael Moorcock, probing the "inner space" of the mind rather than the outer space of the universe. "she's muscling in on our act." Well, well, I thought. So I'm writing science fiction, am 1?"

roam free, where nobody can say "That creature does not exist," because any creature the writer imagines does exist. But for writers more firmly embedded in the genre, it was when space became unfashionable again that they let loose their imaginations on its rebuilt stage.

It was a combination of this freedom and a deliberate desire to do something different from the New Wave, taking SF back to its roots, that provided the impetus for the best British writer of space fiction today. In the worlds of Iain Banks (or Iain M. Banks, as he signs himself when authoring SF), there are no chains on

the imagination. Deliberately reviving the old idea of horse opera, not of Covent Garden), he portrays a future in which Arthur C. Clarke's prediction that "any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic" has come true. Not for him the nitty-gritty of how rockets work, nor any dystopian visions warning us of the error of our ways. Instead, Banks grasps the opportunity to roam the galaxy, using all the special effects of space opera to portray his

a real world background of a faltering manned space programme, disillusion with the once mighty Nasa in the wake of the Challenger disaster, and the gloomy analysis that, as of 1990, it would not have been possible to replicate the Sixties feat of putting a man on the moon, and bringing him safely back. before the end of the decade - not so much because we lacked the technology. but because we lacked the political will.

So what do we find Banks and the other writers of space fiction up to? prospects of a manned expedition to realistic novels about the colonisation Space Opera (the SF equivalent of of the Red Planet, with the most gritty and realistic of all the portrayals probably being Ben Bova's Mars (1992). Deeper into space, Gregory baton, writing about possible futures in which the colonisation of space is carried out by scientifically plausible (although technologically advanced) methods.

Star warriors: left to right, Tom Hanks in the 1995 film of the real-life Apollo 13 mission, and Dan Dare, the intrepid space ranger from Eagle comic, prepares for battle

Mars faded into the far distant future, mentary skills, not least some brutethe early Nineties saw a wave of gritty. force hardware for launching massive payloads into space. The international space station looks as if it really will go into orbit, and there is talk, once again, of an expedition to Mars, if not within my lifetime then perhaps within the Benford, a physicist who also writes lifetimes of many people around today, fiction, has picked up Arthur Clarke's The success of the film Apollo 13 is another substantial straw in the wind, as real-life space heroes (more or less) take over from the lantern-jawed space

rangers of fiction.
It's obvious what this will mean for All in all, it looks as if we are build- science fiction. A retreat from space,

ing up for a golden age of space fiction. But there's a cloud on the horizon. back into the mysteries of the inner mind, while the romance is taken Disturbingly, for fans of the genre, away from the Red Planet, as well as Nasa seems to be getting its act from the moon - and the rest of the together again. The combination of universe is tarred with the same brush. man and machine in space that led to Iain M. Banks will start writing introthe triumphs of the Hubble Space spective psychological studies. Gre-Telescope has raised morale, while the gory Benford will go back to being a Plugging the gap, of course. As the collapse of the Soviet Union has scientist full time, and there will be a provided a new partner with comple- new Star Wars trilogy. Sometimes, it better place if Nasa had never been invented.

But there is a temporary silver lining. There is always a lag between developments in the real world and the response of the writers, and this inertia is still, for now, bringing us the benefits of a new wave of excellent space fictions. Make the most of it, in case the wave is about to break.

> John Gribbin is the presenter "Space Fictions", which begins on BBC Radio 4 this Tuesday at 2 pm.

Bonfire of the Biedermeiers

Robert Winder reads a riches-to-rags tale by the protean creator of Dame Edna Everage

ovelists are often asked, as they tour the bookships promoting their work, where on earth they come up with their ideas. Most of them shrug modestly and say that there's no simple answer. But Barry Humphries - whose first novel is a mirthless comedy about the marital misadventures of an Australian drag and mocks the pictures on other peoartiste - will hardly be stumped for a reply. The man behind Dame Edna has written a book whose central figure is a cross-dressing comedienne called Mrs Petty, a "puritanical but hilarious housewife". Blimey, readers will mutter - how the heck did he think of that?

Mrs Petty is the stage persona of Derek Pettyfer, and the novel follows his romantic ups and downs. He has a pretty bad time of it: his ex-wife bad-mouths him to a biographer, his new wife has naughty flings with everyone she meets; and his agent has taken him to the cleaners financially. Luckily, none of it is very serious -Humphries has gone for a lampooning style that doesn't ask us to care much what happens. And the emotional drama hides its light under London's artsy milieu as if it added a lavish catalogue of fashionable

"When people have been more than usually disappointing. Truns the And he can't go into a restaurant withepigraph, we turn with an added tendemess to things." Pettyfer has a collector's devotion: whenever he enters his flat he strokes his Piranesis another to Peter Hall"); sometimes be (note the plural); and he also likes until his vulgar new mother-in-law puts an £85.000 antique into the dishwasher - to fondle his pieces of Roman glass. He is a fastidious Fraser." Sir Harold Pinter? Is this all on the skids. But this is no bonfire of

Women in the Background by Barry Humphries Heinemann, £14.99

aesthete - quick to sneer at an "overframed" Chagall - who always notices ple's walls. Not all of them can afford Piranesi, the dim fools.

Humphries also surrounds himself with designer accessories - a magnificent" scarlet Sulka bathrobe, a Patek Phillippe watch and a catwalkfull of clothes by Jaeger, Yves St Laurent, Bruce Oldfield, Donna Karan et al. Someone even sports "a top-of-therange, 18-carat, red enamelled Cartier AIDS awareness ribbon." It's like reading an in-flight magazine. Even the dentist collects Biedermeier and

Of course there is a satirical purpose to all this, but even so. Humphries isn't very sarcastic about these perfumed connoisseurs (all of whose scents are named); and he seems happy to serve up references to glamour to his unhappy story. Petryfer's flat contains sculpted busts of Melvyn Bragg and Martin Amis. out mentioning who else is there ("Derek walked among the tables, saying a word to Alan Bates and even drops the names of absentees; "Derek sat at a corner table ... a table at which he had often observed Sir



surrounded by designer accesories

set in the future?

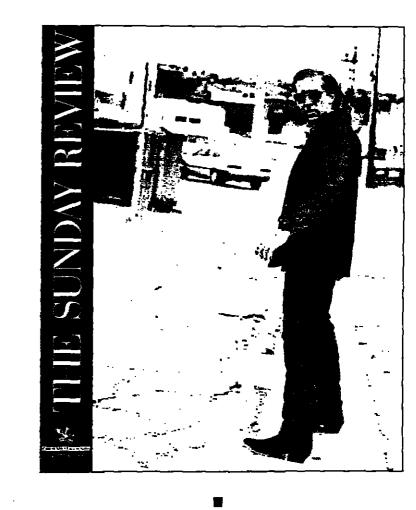
The prevailing preoccupation with joke, but it's a hard joke to get. In a way, it's quite a cunning parody of your classic bodice-ripper: riches-torags instead of rags-to-riches. In place of someone sleeping their way to

the vanities: the tone of the book, its sarky enthusiasm, is set against this sense of decline. A lot of the time, it looks merely like a record of Pettyfer's conquests in disguise. If he invites a receptionist to lunch at the Ivy, the odds are that she'll bring along some slinky leather-and-chrome harness

At the emotional climax, when Pettyfer returns from an advertising shoot in Antigua to find that his wife has been pursuing three dangerous liaisons, he realises that he cares more about the decor of his flat: "Reluctantly Derek brought himself to acknowledge the most painful bereavement of all. Alas, the above horrors would appal him far less than were he to discover that Pam had installed strip lighting in his bouse or resurfaced the floor with black Pirelli rubber.'

It isn't that this is unkind, rather, the satire doesn't cut deep enough. Greedy vacuous types are presented as greedy and vacuous, and the result is a flattened-out, catch-all sneer at the vulgarity of life in the fast lane.

Still, there is a sweet ending. Long ago, Pettyfer's first and truest love has given him a book about Piranesi as a parting gift. It was a perfect present, but he has never got over the absence of anything like a farewell endearment to go with it. status symbols is clearly part of the Now, years later, someone returns the book, and out flutters a card saying: "With all my love, Yvette." It's not much (indeed, it's barely plausible), but it hints at a deep emotional logic that is never pressed. A properly broken heart, after all, can never

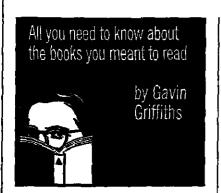


Still crazy after all these years... With Leaving Las Vegas poised to sweep the board at the Oscars, Nicolas Cage talks to David Thomson about the demons that drive him

Plus: Geraldine Bedell on an East End morality tale of race and violence

And how to win the holiday of a lifetime in South Africa

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



This week:

A HOUSE AND ITS HEAD (1935) by Ivy Compton-Burnett

vy Compton-Burnett produced 19 novels between 1925 and 1969; laceratingly funny, they are written almost entirely in pungent, aphoristic dialogue and detail the struggle for power within extended families. Plots are melodramatic - adultery and incest lurk behind the mannered exchanges.

Piot: Duncan Edgeworth uses avarice to bully his family. His wife, Ellen, tries to placate him: Sybil, the younger daughter, flatters him: only Nance, the elder daughter, balks at his tyranny. Duncan's nephew Grant stands to inherit the estate. Within the opening chapters, Duncan harries his wife to death. Showing little remorse, he visits his rich sister to "recuperate". The family have scant time to celebrate before he returns with a new wife. Alison, who is young and beautiful.

Alison is swiftly bored by Duncan's petulance. She is seduced by the nephew, Grant and gives birth to his child. Sybil informs her father that the boy is Grant's. Duncan divorces Alison but informs Grant that the boy will inherit. Grant marries Sybil. Peeved at losing out on the house and the money, Sybil arranges for Grant's bastard son to be gassed in an "accident". Grant guesses the truth and banishes Sybil. Duncan remains in the dark.

Sybil goes to live with her rich aunt. Duncan marries the long-suffering exgoverness who promptly becomes pregnant. However, Sybil is no longer concerned about heirs because the aunt dies, leaving her a packet. Only if she can return to the family will she share her fortune. Grant agrees. Blackmail and infanticide forgotten, Sybil is welcomed back into the collective bosom and normal relations are resumed.

Theme: The abuse of power. Characters with money/ status/ sex appeal bully those who lack all three; but the underdogs have the verbal dexterity to outfox their tyrants and assert some independence. The bald Edwardian setting is a laboratory to demonstrate that family life exists well outside the moral boundaries of respectable society.

Style: Dialogue is pervasive. Chat is both awkward and sinuous, the language abstract yet mercilessly precise. The dearth of visual imagery highlights the maddening clash of voices.

Chief strengths: The characters lack "internal" lives but are compelled to articulate their desires and frustrations. Human personality is shown as the sum total of what you see and hear.

Chief weakness: Kingsley Amis pointed out that a Compton-Burnett character could never say, "You bore me," or "What a pretty dress".

What they thought of it then: The book reinforced Compton-Burnett's status as a major novelist. Virginia Woolf admired and feared "the bitter truth and intense originality" of the work. Later, Nathalie Sarraute welcomed Compton-Burnett's post-modernist challenge to the interior monologues of Joyce and Proust.

What we think of it now: Patronised as an ailing relative of Jane Austen and Henry James. Despite Hilary Spurling's intelligent biography, Compton-Bur-nett is a victim of senseless literary fashion. At the moment, A House and its Head is out of print.

The hundred and one flirtations

Flamboyant, ambitious and highly-sexed, Dodie Smith was more than just a shopgirl turned dog-lover. By Philip Hoare

Dear Dodie by Valerie Grove Chatto, £20

from the beginning, Valerie Grove's book delights with detail. Dodie Smith's Manchester childhood is replete with eccentric bachelor uncles and aunts, and a grandmother who publishes a polemic against "the enforced education of the masses". The background is important, for in her most notably successful play. Dear Octopus, Dodie would recreate her family, "that dear octopus from whose tentacles we never quite escape". Throughout her life, Dodie strained between happiness and despair; and her enviably empathetic biographer states at the outset her subject's early "masochistic tendencies creating miseries out of unusually happy circumstances".

It was a propensity for selfanalysis which would undermine the principal successes of her life. Endlessly documenting her travels in morocco-bound journals, Dodie refused to let things just happen; they needed to be examined under the microscope.

"I'm convinced it's hopeless to start out as the heroine of everything one writes," she wrote, but this was indeed the case. And, like her heroines, independence determined Dodie's existence. She represents a particular type of literary woman born in the late 19th or early 20th-century: emancipated by the First World War; vari-talented, vivacious, ambitious and sexually liber-

Valerie Grove beautifully evokes the period in which her heroine's adventures are set: her provincial experiences in the theatre after Rada, touring towns filled with theatres as yet unconverted to cinemas, with fellow aspiring actresses all named Bunty, Boogie or Boo. The unbeautiful, diminutive cafe which was full of Dodie stood out, if only for her dwarves. It was an



eccentric dress, sporting a turban with an 18-inch feather to give her extra height.

Despite, or perhaps because of her plainness, Dodie was determined to take advantage of a newly-permissive era: a series of lieutenants and theatre agents represented a melodrama of her own making, all duly written up in the journals. In such dangerous flirtations, she was "a rather daring adventuress" when feeling good about herself, "a nasty, silly creature" when abashed by

how far she would go in search of sensation. Dodie's eventual deflowerer was Norman Mac-Dermott, who ran the Everyman Theatre in Hamostead. She sought seduction in his Camden Town flat, but found the experience unsatisfactory; when it was over, she couldn't bear to ask for the loo, and had to walk to Tottenham Court Road to use one in a

episode so surreal that her later friend (and literary executor) Julian Barnes considered using it in a novel, but thought it might be too unbelievable.

Having given up acting, Dodie went to work at Heal's furniture store, where she set her sights on Sir Ambrose Heal himself. She became the boss's mistress, at the same time pursuing a steadier relationship with a fellow assistant, Alec Beesley, with whom she would live for ten years before marrying. It was a flagrantly permissive act as she had meantime become Britain's most successful female play-

Autumn Crocus was raucously received on its first night, and followed by a string of decorously daring dramas, as Dodie was acclaimed as "shopgirl turned playwright". Her dramatic career peaked with the now perennial Dear Octopus, but that play's "end of an epoch" quality signalled a curtain on the inter-war period, and on Dodie's career. In 1939, she decamped to America in deference to Beesley's conscientious objections, and bitterly regretted the move ever after, attributing her

subsequent lack of dramatic suc-

cess to having missed wartime Britain and the "copy" it would have furnished. In Hollywood Dodie made a lot of money out of writing

scripts, and became intimate with John van Druten and Christopher Isherwood. Her relationship with these two gay writers is illuminating. Van Druten was an appalling ideas-thief, stealing unashamedly from Dodie and Isherwood both: she eventually grew tired of his plagiaristic ways. Her friendship with Isherwood lasted, despite being endangered by Isherwood's penny-pinching and his boyfriend greedy consumption at her supper table. Isherwood encouraged Dodie to drop her letter-writing and get on with with her first novel, I Capture the Castle. Inspired by the lives of the Tennant sisters. Laura and Margot, it was a perfect flight of

fancy, Mitfordesque and yet with Joyce and Proust as its "forefathers", the result favours, either.

Left: Dodie Smith at the window of her Essex cottage after the success of 'The Hundred and Ose Dalmatians'. Below: a still from the Disney film

of Dodie's desire to become a "serious writer". That desire was superceded by a spotty dog and an inordinate (some would say indecent) love of animals. In 1934, Dodie received a hatbox containing a Dalmatian puppy, black and white to match her Heals interior. Pongo proved a photogenic accessory, posing decoratively in the theatre stalls (until one day the seat folded in

on the hapless pup).
It is a mark of Grove's good writing that even the most cynical readers will find themselves caught up in the emotional highs. and lows of Dodie's doggy obsession. It was the source of the one work for which she will be remembered: The Hundred and One Dalmatians (1954) was born out of a remark by an actress friend who thought Dodie's latest puppy "would make a nice fur coat". The novel would keep Dodie in the manner to which she had become accustomed: a scriptwriter friend sent it to Walt Disney, and knowing he would never read the whole book. directed him to the scene in which the fugitive puppies disguise themselves in soot. Disney

bought the rights for \$25,000. The rest is history, though for Dodie, it meant a slow but decorative rural decline in her Essex cottage at Finchingfield, increasingly cut off from the human world and surrounded instead by dogs, pigeons, feral cats and mice (though she did conceive a. late passion for the Beatles' Sergeant Pepper album). The immortality of her book is confirmed by news that a live action remake of Dalmatians is on its way, to the disgust of the British Dalmatian Club who fear that renewed popularity of the breed will weaken its genes. I'm afraid Valerie Grove's utterly delightful book will do the Club no

Nazi in a nightdress

The German prima donna was a strategic fan of the Third Reich. Even her salary was arranged by Goebbels. Dermot Clinch investigates

Rarely can so unadventurous an analysis of artistic success have been offered as in the have been offered as in the large transfer of the large transfer o told. And those words are 'talent'and 'ambition'. Schwarzkopf, 80 last year, "nurtured the seed and sought no alternatives in life except those that would help it bloom even more richly."

It's a fine, floral tribute. The phrase "sought no alternatives", though, smacks of euphemism. Schwarzkopf's talent can be

preface to this biography. "Two words" explain the rise of Elisa-after being demoted to a nonbeth Schwarzkopf to the top of singing role. In Berlin with the her profession, we are solemnly Deutsche Oper, the young soprano impressed with her insouciance as much as her voice. "I'm still in my night-dress", of talent which had been born in came the mid-morning phoneher, willed it to flower through call, as she excused herself from sheer, determined hard work, rehearsal. The "night-dress excuse" became something of a joke in Berlin musical life.

For their part, the manage ment of the opera house scrawled "ungrateful and lacking in respect" on her official reports. Even so. Schwarzkopf got ahead. taken for granted; but she She knew which side her bread wouldn't have got where she did was buttered, as Alan Jefferson

Golfancz, £22.50

who admires his subject, regretfully informs us. In 1935, aged 20, Schwarzkopf enrolled as Führerin in the Nazi Students' Association. In 1939 she became a full member of the Nazi party, swearing on oath that she had no taint of Jewish blood. In 1942, and no doubt well before, she was signing her letters "Heil Hitler!"

The singer's contracts show the President of the Reichsmusikkammer himself, Goebbels, taking personal care of Schwarz-

vague suggestion hints that their relationship may have been even closer. Certainly Schwarzkopf knew there was shame attached to her past, lying repeatedly about

it to the allied authorities. How handy it is to have friends in high places is a theme of this book. Herbert von Karajan was Schwarzkopf's protector. Even more importantly so was her husband. Walter Legge, recording manager of her company, HMV, and their relationship gave rise to some of the great recordings of lieder and opera of the last fifty years. Legge, a 'streetwise' Londoner of great musical acumen, went to Austria and Gerkopf's salary. Later Goebbels many immediately after the war

beam of his lamp reached trem-

blingly towards the forest, where

the other obstinate ones waited

for him to join them in prayer."

This beautiful and moving story

works through simplicity and

understatement, its brutal facts

Barnes can be very funny too.

The charming tale of Uncle

Freddy's embroilment in the prac-

tical sex research of the Surreal-

calmly set down.

employed her as an actress in his to sign up the best artists, Nazi or in 1958, seven out of eight of film industry, and a carefully otherwise, for his company. He Schwarzkopf's choices were found no dishonour in promoting recordings of her own voice. von Karajan long before the conductor was cleared of Nazi entanglements.

times suspect nous, that saw to Schwarzkopf's success. Her musicality was huge, even if her voice wasn't. Her husband nurtured her critical intelligence, dictating her interpretations precisely, until her scores were thick with red directions to herself and her. singing sounded sometimes mannered. Not that she seems to have lacked self-confidence, though: the flipside of severe self-criticism was severe self-admiration. For a

otherwise, for his company. He Schwarzkopf's choices were

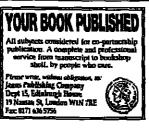
In the end, though, biographics of singers, like biographies of Bordeaux chateaux, are pale Ultimately, of course, it was reflections of the real thing, using neither Legge nor her own some- a language which is often just as curious and inbred. The singer's voice will, one knows, be termed at some point "the instrument". Recording will be upped a notch and get called "committing to disc". Statements about star quality ("which you either possess or you don't") will find their way in. Connoisseurs are this book's only possible readership, for whom all the scandal and the nice, retrospective distinctions will be a thrill. To anyone else the advice Desert Island Discs programme is simple. Don't read. Just listen.

Lanterns and lovers on a passage to Paris

Julian Barnes is always an intelligent writer, but his new stories are sexy and affectionate too. By Michèle Roberts

Prossing the Channel has long unknown, and rope in creatures signified for English people our version of passage rites, initiation into the grown-up pleasures of good food and wine, sophisticated sex, witty conversation, and a different way of life, to be eagerly anticipated or dourly sniffed at depending on our particular blend of puritanism and nationalism. Our ambivalence about the crossing has inspired many a sub-plot in our literature, has created many a comi-tragic character, pulled in both directions at once.

The Channel crossing can also stand as a fine example of the imagination at work. We throw out our mind-lassoes into the



whose names we don't know, who introduce a touch of wildness into our minds. We voyage into the darkness and take risks, all for the sake of adventure. We learn to speak new languages. We allow ourselves, in the hurly-burly of forgiveness, to be transformed.

This is a daily, human necessity. not confined to writers or lovers. Julian Barnes's new book of stories functions like a gift, to remind us of this. His writing demonstrates the billowing lightness of imagination, like a magical tent suddenly springing up, and also the desire to observe very closely and learn about the beloved object, as though seeing it for the first time. Reading these stories, you perceive and love

France afresh. This is the Barnes book I've most enjoyed. It's characterised by the intelligence, irony and wit you associate with his writing, but is also suffused with feeling. Whether first or third person. deeply seasoned with affection. The relaxed but total confidence ately involved, they are in a total confidence ately involved, they are in a total confidence ately involved. The denotes the confidence are set upon runners.
by Julian Barnes Cape, £13.99



Julian Barnes: pure jouissance

of the story-telling is expressed through the narrators he employs.

complete command of their fictional worlds, well-travelled in the land of words, urbane, not given to showing off, adept at puns, fond of jokes. Rather English, in fact.

His theme allows Barnes a wide variety of voices. Being able to speak French comes to stand for possessing the talent of a ventriloquist, plus the visionary sympathies of a secr. Barnes seems just as happy giving voice to a 17th-century heretic in the peasant society of the Montagne Noire as he does to a 19th-century bourgeois doctor or an early 20thcentury baker in the Marne.

"Dragons", the only story in the collection to be narrated solely from the French point of view, gravely impersonates the silences and sufferings of the Huguenot villagers set upon by the cruel foreign soldiers employed by the Catholic church to enforce its doctrines. As the story opens,

ists uses French puns and misun-

stubborn heretic, bent on survivcurious to experience lots of different lovers. The delicious Aunt ing the horrors visited upon his Kate, not quite as pure as Freddy family, has also cut three pieces of beechwood the exact size of the likes to make out, may, we gather, panels of glass. When these were have had the last of several inserted, the flame would be cast laughs. The sexiest writing is in a single direction only. Pierre nearly always comic at the same Chaigne puts the pieces of beech-wood at one end of his workshed. time, thus saving itself from purple prose. This story is a star At the end of the story, in which example. It detonates in the he speaks only once to ask why, reader's imagination just after its he takes his lantern, inserts the closing lines. Pure jouissance. pieces of beechwood, then follows the light of his truth: "The yellow Barnes writes about women

with interest, tenderness and sympathy, as being truly the friends of men. He gets close up to his women characters in an uffectionate and relaxed way, These qualities are exquisitely demonstrated in my favourite story. "Hermitage" concerns both wine-making and the retreat from the world. Florence and Emily find their joy in the Medoc, setting up home with each other and rescuing the vineyards of a chateau fallen on hard times. The denouement, both sweet and sexy, is like the Song of Songs

Audiobooks



read by Stanley Baxter The Dark Room read by Saskia Wickham

o abridge or not to abridge? I had no problem at all with the shortened version of Compton Mackenzie's Whisky Galore (BBC Radio Collection, £7.99). It gives far more of the original than the film did, and, read by Stanley Baxter with a Hebridean lilt so authentic that it had me pining for a ceilidh, it provided more smiles per mile than any tape I've so far test-driven.

But the abridged version of The Dark Room, the most recent of Minette Walters's macabre thrillers (Hodder Headline, £7.99) is a disaster. Although very well read by Saskia Wickham, the severe pruning of the subplots, red herrings and carefully laid clues does no justice to Walters's consummate skill in plotting, and the sudden denouement left me quite bewildered. In this case, it's worth going the whole horrific hog, and quaking with fear to the excellent fulllength version read by the very vocally versatile Patricia Gailimore (Soundings, £37.95)

Christina Hardyment







Bye-bye, baby

A kidnapped child, a deal with God and lots of Irish guilt. D.J. Taylor reads a striking debut

ary Morrissey's first novel is Mother of Pearl a triptych on the theme of the divided self. Based on the ancient fictional conceit of the stolen child, it examines the event from the point of view of the kidnapper - a childless woman, inevitably enough - the mother, and the child itself. Each protagonist comes weighed down with a substantial freight of sinister interior

For Irene, who stalks purposefully into a Belfast maternity ward and abstracts the contents of an unguarded cot, the roots of obsession lie in illness. Struck down with TB at the age of 18, six years in a gruesome sanitorium, survivor of a ghastly operation which seems only a parody of caesarian section, she emerges as the wife of a silent, credulous man named Stanley, first encountered over his mother's deathbed. Stanley turns out to be impotent; neighbourly gossip is increasingly cen-sorious. No objection having been raised to the baby who arrives in Irene's charge one afternoon, the two conceal the theft for four years, until a revenant from the old hospital days, calling by chance on his rounds as a travelling salesman, guesses the truth and calls the police.

The story shifts to Rita, mother of "Baby Spain" (the case becomes a national cause célébre), a gauche and impressionable teenager whose infatuation with a likely-looking cinema usher results in pregnancy and a forced marriage. Psychologically unbalanced even before the trauma of the empty cot, conducting her life through a series of divine bargains ("he could even take Mel if she could have her baby back!"), Rita takes up ballroom dancing and conceives a second child with her demure Italian instructor. Her husband's death in a bungled terrorist execution is a working-out of the spiritual contract. Even so, when the authorities arrive with news of the baby, Rita's guilt-ridden response is to

scream, "I haven't done anything!". Something more of Rita's embattled character and capacity for deception is revealed in the monlogue of her daughter, which takes up the novel's third

recreates her sister as "Jewel," a familiar who accompanies her through adolescence. Married to a police photographer, Mary discovers Jewel to be infinitely preferable to the real foetus in her womb and does something very unfortunate with a knitting needle.

Morrissey's eerie taste for back-street Grand Guignol informs several of the strokes in her 1993 collection, A Lazy Eye (Vintage, £5.99). Awash with menstrual blood and symbolic denouements, they reach a macabre height in "Rosa," which climaxes in the substitution of a real baby for the ornament of a department store crib immediately before closing time on Christmas Eve. Like the stories, Mother of Pearl is variable in quality. Part One. while excellent on the ground-down atmosphere of the TB hospital, is over-written; Part Two, by contrast, seems an immensely subtle psychological portrait; while the first person narrative of Part Three is a touch clumsy and prone to let too many cats out of what is by now a crowed mental bag.

One sees what Morrissey is trying to do in some of her more fervent passages, and the kind of symbolical fanfares to which she aspires, but the result sometimes verges on the effortful. Thus, when Irone journeys to the hospital. "The bus was a beast driven. It buckled and swaved, wipers clinging gamely to its snout. Granitefield stood in a stretch of grizzled countryside, seeping grey stone...giving way to barred, teeth-like windows. A few trees rose supplicant from the duncoloured fields..." To balance this is a densely evoked Irish atmosphere of rain, tension and unhappiness, with The Troubles always lurking dangerously in the background. Mother of Pearl won a Lannan Award (\$50,000 and no questions asked) on its recent publication in America, but for the section. Brought up to believe in the moment it is easier to discern promise existence of a "lost" third baby, Mary than accomplishment.



A carved wooden bust, signtless eyes and unfeasible amounts of hea to Lawrence Durrell's house on the edge of Sommieres in the south of France, whither he moved in 1965 to write and paint and play jazz piano. It's one of a hundred entrancing photographs by Erica Lennard in 'Writers' Houses' by Francesca Premoli-Dronlers pubfished just before Christmas (Cassell, £25) and features the dreamily luxurious domestic interiors of 20 authors, from Karen Blixen's severe Danish manor house to Yeats's blessed and beautiful Thoor Ballylee. Turn the pages and die of envy.

Falling in love with the High Table heroes

Susie Boyt reads a first novel by a noted academic in which even the minor characters have PhDs

Darbara Hardy, Professor Emeritus London Lovers Bat Birkbeck College and Hon-orary Professor at University Col-lege. Swansea, has achieved international acclaim for her pioneering studies of Victorian fiction and for her work on the novels of Jane Austen. It comes as little surprise that her first novel is an intensely literary affair.

London Lovers is a richly textured, multi-layered unfolding of a life devoted to love and work. It follows the professional and romantic career of Florence Jones, from young Welsh bride to London sophisticate, from student to professor of Eng. Lit. The book has a loose structure, spilling out episodes, observations and memories, constantly turning on itself as it weaves from future to present to past with no obvious rationale, except perhaps a commitment not to exclude anything, a form of openness which makes the experiences described seem unusually authentic.

After a modest upbringing in South Wales in the Thirties, where her aunt refuses to read her a bedtime story because she is "no scholar", Florence marries Charlie Jones, the boy next door (their wedding breakfast consisted of "Sherry and port and beer and ham sandwiches"), finishes her thesis and gains an academic post at London University. In her new milieu, friends and lovers meet on lecture tours, at High Table, at conferences and at academic parties where the Lowells and the Spenders are glimpsed. This is a novel in which even the minor characters have PhDs. Gradually Florence takes on some of the characteristics of her new worldly environment, displaying a cool detachment towards herself and her own behaviour, treating her life as a form of experimental text, having a go at infidelity to see what it feels like, casually allowing her marriage to fail. not because it is a bad one but because the idea of being married no longer seems to suit her. She moves in with a lacklustre man ("He was quite a good mathematician I was told, but kept his intellect for his maths") but comes back to Charlie and attempts to mend the marriage with children.

by Barbara Hardy Peter Owen, £15.50

Yet unlike many of the women in the novels she studies, marriage is not an ending for Florence, but a false start. Her realisation that she does not wish to be married gives her a new beginning, so that by the time she meets Mick Solomon, distinguished American academic and hus-band of the invalid "horrible Ellen", she is able to build herself the kind of permanent love affair that allows her an intense and passionate involvement while maintaining a bed of her own.

Hardy's novel veers between a gossipy ease and surprising and austere moments of intimacy: Florence's meeting of the new Mrs Jones for the first time at the hospital bedside when Charlie is dying: her poignant examination of the effect of the death of the old love on the life of the new love affair. The impact of each man shapes Florence's attitude towards the other. Siabod was Charlie's favourite mountain. The very idea of Mick having a favourite mountain was ludicrous," she tells us.

At regular intervals throughout the book, Florence refers to an unfinished novel she wrote years before. about the same set of characters in which she used her husband's middle name for the surname of her lover and left out her spinster aunt who had gone into service.These references give the actual text an odd sort of integrity, creating the sense that what she did choose to write is especially deliberate. We might have had to settle for a version in which Aunt Mary was left out because her life was 100 sad, but we were undeceived at the last moment. This device raises questions about the kind of treatment experience has to undergo in order that it can become fiction. More than a passionate telling of two different ways of loving, this is a novel about writing.

Paperbacks -



Reviewed by Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst



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The Lost Treasures of Troy by Caroline Moorehead (Phoenix, £10.99)

Absorbing biography of Heinrich Schliemann, who set the world agog in the 1860s by unearthing a golden hoard in Asia Minor. It was from the legendary city of Troy - though the discoveries predated Helen by 1000 years. Despite his brutal excavation methods, Schliemann was acclaimed "father of pre-history". Held as Russian booty in 1945, the artifacts are only now reappearing.



The Orange Tree by Carlos Fuentes (Picador, £6.99)

Whether it's the Spanish in Mexico, the Romans in Spain, or the Californians in Acapulco, Carlos Fuentes loves the historical complications thrown up when two worlds collide. Four thematically-related novellas in which Aztec kings, Hollywood stars, and even Marks & Spencer sales assistants, stalk the bloodred horizon with equal gravitas.



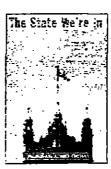
It Came from Memphis by Robert Gordon (Secker, £9.99)

Fruity, irresistible yarns about unsung heroes of the rock and roll city, ranging from blues legend Furry Lewis, supplied with whiskey by the author in breaks from school, to wrestler Sputnik Morgan (catchphrase "I'll jump in the air and shit in your hair"). Lynchpin of the local music scene is Jim Dickinson, who opines: Hits are in baseball, singles are in bars and your royalty lives in a castle in Europe."



Coconuts for the Saints by Debra Spark (Faber, £8.99)

Set in the candy-coloured streets of old San Juan. Sandrofo's bakery is the town's meeting place for those with a romantic turn of heart. But for the baker's triplet daughters, Tata, Melone and Beatriz, a life sandwiched between coconut kisses and shell-shaped cookies leaves much to be desired. A first novel it's hard not to like: everyone and everything in it tastes so good.



The State We're In by Will Hutton (Vintage, £7.99)

Richly meriting its success, this book is a tonic. Hutton starts with an informed tour d'horizon citing the short-termism and pocketlining which characterise our market economy. Worst of all is the idea that high unemployment is immutable. The solution is Keynes's "cooperative capitalism" along with constitutional reform. Hutton's cheering view is that Britain has "a remarkable chance to change itself".



Making it Work: Women, Change and Challenge in the 1990s by Sue Innes (Chatto, £10.99)

A woman shepherd may have won One Man and his Dog, Star Trek may have divested itself of gendered language, and Kirsty Wark may front Newsnight, but, wonders Scottish journalist Sue Innes, have women's lives really changed for the better in the last 25 years? Most women (who are probably too overworked to read this book) will already know the answer.



Eccentrics by David Weeks and Jamie James (Phoenix, £6.99)

This entertaining defence of the zany combines academic research and journalistic anecdotes. Some stories are familiar, such as Berners's pastel-dyed doves and Firbank consuming a single pea at a banquet, but did you know that director Ed Wood wore a pink bra and panties throughout his war service? Eccentrics turn out to be less mad than the norm, but this book fails to explain why they tend to be extremely right-wing.



Jack the Modernist by Robert Gluck (Serpent's Tail, £8.99)

With chapter-titles that sound like they've come out of a Woody Allen film - "My friend Bruce gave a housewarming party", or Saturday began with a letter from Brian" - Robert Gluck's new novel tells how Bob falls for Jack (his red chamois shirt, gyroscopic nipples and herbal toothpaste), and how it all ends in tears in Leon's Soul Food restaurant.



NORMAN LEWIS

Voices of the Old Sea by Norman Lewis (Picador, £5.99)

Though first published in 1984, this wonderful book recalls a period just after the war when Lewis lived in a poor fishing community in north-east Spain. Reticent, dignified and austere, the villagers clung to old ways, improvising blank verse and observing medieval ritual. But this ancient idyll was doomed. The barbarian, clutching suntan oil, was at the gate. Keen-eyed and pellucid, it is Lewis's finest work.



The Wig My Father Wore by Anne Enright (Minerva, £6.99)

The man who appears on Grace's doorstep asking for a cup of tea turns out to be an angel - an angel with a celestial smile and a glittering crotch. He paints her walls white, fills the cupboards with Angel Delight and hovers comfortingly above her head as she sleeps. He even takes a kindly interest in her dying father's wig. One of Ireland's more surreal offerings.

Who's reading whom?

Stephen Bayley, design and style guru, is picking his way through the debris of two tumbled reputations of the 20th century



Ifind myself reading two books Ithat have a curious similarity: Kenneth S. Lynn's Hemingway (Harvard) and Richard Webster's Why Freud Was Wrong (HarperCollins). Both of them not so much deconstruct as demolish the reputations of their subjects. Hemingway, the tough-butsensitive hero with a cause. becomes a craven braggart, capable of facing bullets but incapable of facing up to himself. Freud, who told us to know ourselves, traduced science in a self-serving quest to find data to support his whimsical and smutty convictions about the sources of behaviour. When figures of the stature of Hemingway and Freud are so icily scrutinised, you wonder about our contemporary need to disinherit ourselves. That's why they're such good books.

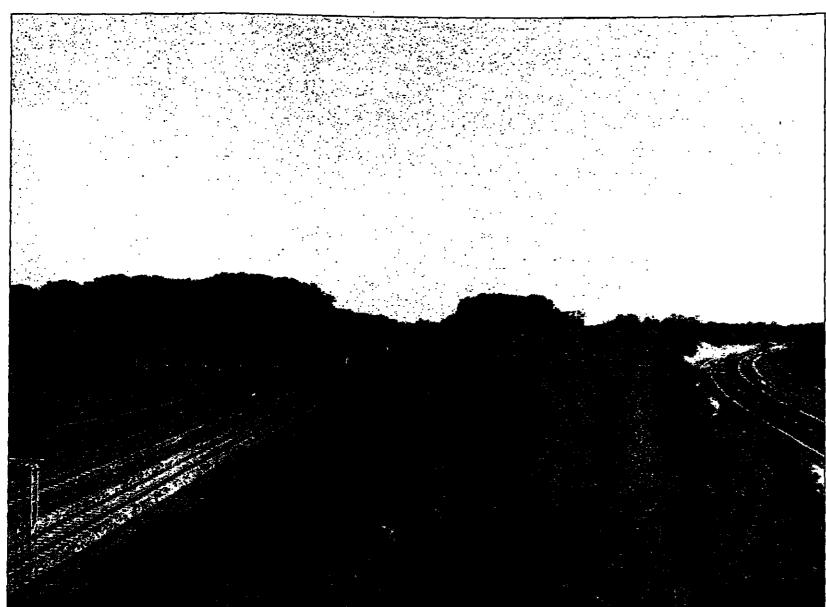
Reader offer

The Poetry Book Society was I founded in 1953 by T S Eliot to encourage the art and publishing of poetry. Under the successive chairmanship of Eliot, Stephen Spender, Ted Hughes and Philip Larkin the society has blossomed and grown - and set up in 1993 an annual prize in its founder's name but the basic format of membership remains unchanged. Members receive four new poetry books each year, selected by the PBS, receive a quarterly Bulletin and are offered 60 new titles at substantial discount. Craig Raine is of the opinion that the PBS offers "the best introduction to British poetry I can

think of. Independent readers have an opportunity to join the Society at a discounted rate of £20 (members pay £30) and the first 10 applicants will receive a complete set of books by the shortlisted poets for this year's TS Eliot Prize. To join, simply ring the Poetry Book Society for a membership form (0181 870 8403) quoting "Independent Offer".



country



Milton Keynes: wilder than you thought

Yes, yes, there are concrete cows. But now MK is attracting birds, butterflies and otters. By Tony Kelly

icky Wheeler is a woman with a mission. She wants otters to return to Milton You might think that the closest you would get to wildlife in Milton Keynes would be the much-ridiculed sculpture of concrete cows, but you would be wrong. Since development began in the Sixties 400 acres of wood- to encourage different species,"

There are more species of wildlife in Milton Keynes than of ancient woodland surrounded there were 30 years ago. "I saw a by fields. deer and a pheasant on my way to work today," says Nicky, "and people in city-centre offices see

hares leaping out of hedges." As for otters: "They used to be here years ago, and you still find them on the Ouse in Bedford and Buckingham, so I'm sure they'll be back soon," Nicky enthuses. "Otters travel long distances to find mates, but they need quiet areas to hide and rest along the way, among bramble or scrub or beneath overhanging trees. A lot of trees have been cut down on the riverbanks, leaving fewer areas for otter holts. By building log holts on the river's edge, covered with branches like enormous bonfires, we can encourage otters to come back."

throughout the city. A corridor is just what it says, a green link between larger areas of habitat. It could be a river, stream or see more research, to find out hedgerow, an embankment, a footpath or even a road.

"The best wildlife corridors are rounding farmland, where intensive arable farming has left islands

"Once habitats are isolated," she explains, "there are too many pressures on small wildlife communities. Droughts, floods and fires can be disastrous and there is lowered resistance to disease because of inbreeding. Corridors enable plants and animals to colonise new sites if they feel threatened. Foxes and badgers can move very quickly, but a corridor may have to support a butterfly community over several

Not everyone is convinced, "It's difficult to find proof that corridors work," says Dave Dawson of the London Ecology Unit, who has carried out a study of wildlife corridors for English Nature. "Some species need them, like frogs and toads who need wet and Nicky is project officer for the dry land at different times of year

protect corridors for wildlife probably only a minority of percent in the Eighties - and the factory, a garden centre, sports species - though probably those most in need of conservation. "As a scientist, I would like to

> which species use them." Nicky Wheeler accepts the need for research but is impatient

those which are continuous, and to act now. "The dormouse is in contain several different habitats national decline," she says, "and has died out in Milton Keynes. land have been planted; a fifth of says Nicky. Most of these are in They tend to move along the tops down to ground, so they need a continuous line of treetops."

Then there is the marbled white butterfly. A few years ago there was only one known site for it in the city, now there are several on the embankment beside the main London-to-Birmingham rail line. We think it has spread along the railway corridor," she says.

The first task in protecting corridors is to identify them with the help of technology. "We began by looking at aerial photographs for an overview of where the green spaces are, then narrowed it down to exclude short-mown grass and non-native plantations - otherwise all of Milton Keynes could have been labelled green," says Nicky.

By way of illustration we look out of her office window in Campbell Park to see a neat cricket pitch, and green space as far as the eye can see. Yet we are only a mile from central Milton Keynes. This Milton Keynes Wildlife Corridor and wouldn't survive in a pond is a city with the fastest population Project, which aims to identify and surrounded by concrete. But it's growth in Britain - more than 40

extra houses and cars all add to the pressures on wildlife.

We identified 21 key corridors, such as rivers, the Grand Union Canal, brooks, streams and the railway," Nicky continues. "I spent the long hot summer out of doors surveying the sites, to chart the main habitats - woodland, grassland and so on before putting

the information on computer."

On the wall of her office I loo at the result: a computerised map of the city superimposed with areas of habitat in different woodland beside a river, then you spot a gap which needs to be bridged. Funds and volunteers permitting, bridging these gaps is the next stage of the work.

One of the key corridors lies along the Ouzel Valley, much of it within one of the city's parks. We leave the car near the old village of Simpson and walk towards the river. We pass an old paddock, ancient hay meadows, wide double hedgerows and a lake covered in willow and reed beds. A pair of herons swoop over the lake as if on cue. "Come back in spring and the air will be thick with butter-

flies," promises Nicky. A few miles away, by the same river, we stand beside an old Roman road, now named the V4 (V for vertical) in Milton Keynes' grid system. It doesn't look promising - a boarded-up pub, a

fields. But even here there are things that can be done. "Those playing fields have cut grass all the way to the riverbank," said Nicky. "Just moving them a few yards in could provide a hiding place for otters. And the riverbanks are too steep, like canals - they need to

be gentler and wider. And that poplar plantation - if you mixed in some oak and ash you'd have detective, looking for clues wherever she goes. "We've got the advantage in a colours. You see a corridor of new city that green spaces were woodland beside a river, then planned from the beginning, and development is still going on so we can influence it from the start,"

she says. "But I really think this can be used as a model for urban development elsewhere. Milton Keynes shows how you can start off with an intensively farmed landscape and create something much more diverse. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a national network of wildlife corridors? "It's all about planning for

diversity," she adds, "and explaining to developers the need to maintain wildlife links. I think development can be used in a positive way. There's no automatic conflict between conservation and development."

Milton Keynes Wildlife Corridor Project can be contacted on 01908 201567.

A regular supply of different foods is what garden birds need to help them through the winter

By Anna McKane

rumbs from the Christ-mas table may make the Udifference between life and death for small birds at this time of year. So give that reproachful piece of Christmas cake at the back of the cupboard to those who really

Cakes, puddings and old mince pies are all ideal for birds, as they contain nuts, fats and fruit. A regular supply of different foods is what garden birds need to help them through the winter, as Chris Harbard of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds recently explained to me.

Scattering a few crusts on the lawn when we remember is not going to be of much use and it is no surprise that those of us who do that see only sparrows and fat wood-

every day, first thing in the morning. The birds will soon learn to come for it at that time, and they will be able to feed without wasting too much energy, a major consideration when the weather is very cold.

Grated cheese or cheese rind is good, so the remains of the Stilton can join the pudding. Hardened cooking fat, especially if some wild bird food is stirred into it while it is warm, is another favourite. Packets of wild bird penser are useful at this time of year as they have a high fat

the house is chicken carcass, or chicken bones hung from the trees in the garden. Quite apart from the aesthetic considerations, it would have to providing for a family of rats. It is a hard world out there, but I for one draw the line at helping feathered friends by stringing up the bones of their

dead cousins. A bird table provides safety from cats, and if properly designed will prevent squirrels from taking peanuts meant for the birds. You can build a platform on a post or in a tree, or a table can be bought by mail order from the RSPB or from a garden centre. Avoid the rather twee thatched cottage style, as the birds will remove the thatch to build

The best ones have a platform for pieces of food, and a plastic or wire dispenser for nuts and seeds. The ones with roofs will stop the food going soggy. It should not be too small, (about three square feet is ideal), otherwise the



Make sure there is always a supply of clean water, not just for drinking, but also for the birds to bathe in. They need to do this, even in the coldest weather, because clean feathers provide better insulation.

pigeons. A variety of foods will attract a variety of birds.

According to Mr Harbard as holly, pyracantha and berberis. Holly and other dense evergreens provide cover for small birds to roost at night.

Now is also the time to think about nest boxes. They should be put in position soon, so that birds can get used to them, ready for when they start inspecting sites next

There are two basic types: those with a small hole in the front are for tits, and those with an open front are for robins and wrens. There are also artificial house martin mixture give a good variety of nests on the market, which food, and peanuts in a dis- can be placed under the eaves. House martins can be difficult to please. They tend to nest in colonies, and certain Mr Harbard's speciality of types of brick do not seem to appeal to them. There is a theory that they prefer to nest under dark-painted caves.

Wrens will sometimes roost overnight in nest boxes during wise you might find you are been sighted crammed into one nest box. They will nest in boxes, too, but as the male has to build three or four nests, and show them to his prospective mate for her to choose from, the box may be abandoned in favour of another site. It is a hard enough life for a small bird to find one suitable site, let alone four. So it is no wonder that, according to the RSPB, a wren has been seen nesting in a pair of underpants on a washing line.

> The RSPB will send free: information on looking after wild birds: RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL Their marketing arm issues a free catalogue which includes details of tables, nest boxes and food: RSPB, PO Box 54, Burton-upon-Trent Staffordshire DE14 3LQ.

> > : - .

A little local trouble

A weekly round-up of rural rumpuses

And Teresa Gorman MP thinks she has problems with the planning authorities. Spare a thought this week for 13-year-old Samson Greenhalgh, as he faces the next round of a war of words with East Dorset District

Council in Wimborne. Four years ago, Samson began to build a tree-house a wooden platform four feet off the ground and six-feetsquare - on land belonging to his parents' pub at Sixpenny Handley, Dorset; and for an only child who had just moved to the village, the "house" soon became an invaluable aid to making new friends. That is, until last September, when acting on a tip-off from residents of a neighbouring trailer park, the district council ordered him to seek planning permission or demolish the structure.

After protracted wrangling, the council has now hinted that a dash of green paint and a few structural changes may make the "house" acceptable. The catch? It looks likely to cost £160 in application fees. Next week: Tree-house Boy in Negative Equity Shock.

He flattened the buildings, cut down the trees and left with a six-figure profit. So why could no one stop him?

t the southern end of the Cotswolds, spurs of hill Trun far out into the plain, with deep valleys striking back into the high ground between them. On one such spur there stood, until recently, an enchanting little group of buildings.

Level fields crown the hill, and woods cloak its steep flanks, so that the tapering strip of farmland on top seems far removed from the world below. The only means of access for vehicles is a rutted track, which meanders a mile or more from the interior.

In this high and lonely setting, there was once a farmyard. When I first knew it, 10 years ago, a handsome barn stood at the upper end of the yard, more or less intact, and down the left-hand side ran a line of stables and cowsheds. At the bottom, forming part of a third side, was a twostorev structure with a hayloft

on the upper floor. The buildings were made of local stone, bleached to a pleasing light grey by years of wind, rain and frost. Walls of the same material divided the fields, forming wind-



DUFF HART-DAVIS

breaks, and on one side of the farmyard, behind the stables, was a double column of splendid old beeches, whose silvery trunks matched the colour of the stone.

The barn was still being used to store hay and straw, but the stables had fallen into decay. The yard was by no means suited to latter-day agriculture, being too small and too far away from any other centre of activity, and yet, even though it had no practical future, it formed an attractive feature.

I saw it as potentially a wonderful place in which to live. There were drawbacks. of course - no electricity, telephone line or mains water

within miles, and no proper know that buildings or trees access. Almost certainly the local planning authority would have refused permission to convert the barn into a house. All the same, the mere existence of the buildings kept the dream alive. Then that 100-acre block of

land changed hands. For several years the new owner tried to build a house, not around the barn, but on a virgin site a few hundred yards up the fields. Happily, he was frus-trated, not least by the fact that a rival landowner demanded an exorbitant amount of money for passage across an intervening neck of ground.

Nothing, however, stopped him destroying the dilapi-dated old yard. First the barn was bulldozed out of existence, the stone carted off and sold. Then the beeches were cut down. The sheds, stables and hayloft soon followed suit. Finally, as if to obliterate every trace, the new owner scooped up trailer-loads of soil and dumped them on the site, levelling the earth to make the old yard part of the field.

were ever there. The developer's next step

was to start demolishing the field walls and selling the stone. The effect has been to open the hilltop to the winds and leave it looking like a blasted prairie. Finally, he was able to sell the whole block of land at a grossly inflated price - £3,000 an acre, nearly double its agricultural worth. Having laid the hill to waste, he left with a six-figure profit.

I am not suggesting that m any of this he broke the law. I merely point out that there seemed to be no means of stopping him. It makes me livid that, for all our planning regulations, for all the plethora of protective bodies that now seek to preserve the countryside, one man can wreck the

landscape solely for gain. No matter that the hill lies within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. No matter that it is designated an Environmentally Sensitive Area. Part of its character has gone for ever - and the same thing is happening not just in my backyard, but over the Today, one would hardly length and breadth of Britain.

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The Newton Goldings' problem? Their garden is concrete

WORKSHOP By Anna Pavord

problem is a ruther large slab of concrete which was the base of a barn. It is 30yd x Oyd. It is too large and thick to remove completely but we want to plant the area it covers. This is a very windy, exposed site and we would like to fence the front area then hedge with something that would provide a wind break.

"We have thought of punching through the concrete, removing some bits, filling the holes with compost to make raised beds. Whatever we do, it will have to be on a shoestring! We moved here 14 months ago from a terraced house in east London which had a 30ft x 30ft back garden. This farm has 40 acres with at least 2 acres of garden - potentially anyway. Very linle had been done before we came. Most of the plants we have now are cuttings from friends and family. Can you offer any advice?"

Eileen Newton Golding, her husband, Chris, and their 11-year-old daughter, Charlie, live in a converted barn just south of the M1 in Northamptonshire. The approach is through a long avenue of limes, leading to the neigh-bouring farmhouse. I had imagined the concrete slab Ms Newton Golding mentioned in her letter as a fairly messy screed - the sort of DIY cobble covering that farmers often go in for to clean up a messy yard. In my mind's eye, I saw it excavated and broken up to make a series of irregular island beds, with plants flowing out at the edges to disguise the rest of the

concrete in between.

The reality is rather less tractable. The concrete lies in front of the house, although at a lower level. It is the first thing you see when you arrive, and you immediately recognise that it has been laid to last. There are no peeling edges, no cracks, no little weak spots where you feel that with a twist of a crowbar you could start picking away the pie crust to reveal the meaty earth underneath. And would there be earth underneath? The concrete itself was at least four inches thick and it was likely, as it had lasted so well, that there would be a hideously well compacted layer, perhaps a foot deep, of hardcore under

the top screed. The stone barn, well converted, sits on a plateau of ground with a roughly concreted drive running along its front. The ground then slopes evenly down to meet the sea of concrete drive taken off it. The garden area, as over tall grass and moon daisies con below. The Newton Goldings have the letter made clear, is about two tent in the knowledge that they had dug this west-facing slope and planted acres. Both Eileen and Chris Newton dealt with the root of the problem it up with cuttings gathered from friends. Railway sleepers lodged have a great many animals to look offending sofa out of the sittingacross the slope show where steps will after. Charlie's crofting aunt gave her room. What would the demolition lead down from one level to the next. a ewe lamb, which has spread to man quote for that I wonder?

According to the

Guinness Book of

Records the tallest

pear in England is

the 64ft monster

Haywards Heath,

at Borde Hill,

West Sussex

Alan Mitchell, who died last August, spent his entire life

studying trees and built up an

extraordinary database of

information about record

breaking trees: the tallest, the

fattest, the oldest of a huge col-

lection of different species.

This material is now organised

into the Tree Register of the British Isles (TROBI) which is

a registered charity set up to

continue recording the trees of this country. TROBI has

recently launched a memorial

appeal to honour Alan

Mitchell. You can send cheques

for the fund, made out to The Tree Register of the British Isles, to Pam Stevenson, 77a Hall End, Wootton, Beds

etty Loving of Newport, Isle

Dof Wight recently sent a pho-

tograph of the biggest pear

tree I have ever seen, which

grows in her back garden.

When we moved here 28 years

ago" she writes, "the only thing

of any merit in the small,

walled wilderness at the back

was the pear tree. The trunk

now has a circumference of 6ft

at a height of one foot above

the ground. The pears look like

a type of Conference, but are

uneatable! It would be inter-

MK43 9HP.

It is a big area to plant, as it runs the whole 30 yards of the concrete and is become a flock of 40. There are two heifers, two ponies, three dogs, cats about seven feet wide.

The neighbouring farmer needs side of the Newton Goldings' house and presently uses the narrow concrete drive, which is very close to the house. But a rather better access, wider and with a less difficult turn in from the drive, could be provided along the bottom edge of the concrete carpet. That would put the drive at the edge of the garden-to-be. Beyond is a paddock, which, as Ms Newton Golding's letter explained, will eventually be fenced off from the garden proper.

The old drive would have to be broken up, of course, but that would not be such a daunting proposition. You can see from the way it is bowing that it is not as securely clamped to the earth as the lower concrete area. The new drive, at about 17ft wide, would take up one-third of the width of the concrete sea on the lower level. What to do with the rest?

The Newton Goldings have mulched their planted slopes with woodchip and, despairing of the sight of the concrete, had mulched over quite a lot of that, too. I've a sofa I treat in the same way; it's mulched with an Indian bedspread. It doesn't change the ghastliness of what is going on underneath, but it slightly reduces the offence to the eye while you think about a long-term solution.

"Do you play tennis?" I asked hopefully. The beautifully level concrete would make a base for a hard court. But they didn't. Ms Newton Golding had thought of building up raised beds, using timbers to contain earth on top of the concrete. You would have to drill holes in the concrete first, so that the raised beds drained properly.

That was certainly an option, but would not, I thought, look right in this particular situation. You could do it in an enclosed yard, where the arms of a building shut you off to a great extent from the larger scene. Here, you look out from the house over the concrete to a lovely view beyond: the long lime avenue, gently undulating pasture, clumps of trees in the distance. It is an essentially rural view. The raised beds would be too urban.

The Newton Goldings also needed to think about the time they would have to garden intensively in this large area - still 30yd x 14yd, even with the Golding still work in London and they

esting to discover how old the

tree is. We wonder if it might

have been planted soon after

the house was built in 1830. We

are doing our best to maintain

it. We had some of the crown

removed a few years ago and

my husband has braced a cou-

ple of the main upper limbs.

Does anyone know a fatter

pear tree than this? According

to the Guinness Book of

Records the tallest pear in

England is the 64ft monster at

Borde Hill, Haywards Heath,

West Sussex. The garden will

be open daily this year from the

16 March (10am-6pm). Admis-

The National Council for the Conservation of Plants and

Gardens has just published the

1996 Directory of the national

plant collections (price £2.95).

Inside are details of where to

find all the NCCPG collec-

tions from abelia (Mr and Mrs Yeo at Pleasant View Nursery,

Two Mile Oak, Nr Denbury.

Newton Abbot, Devon) to

yucca (C Smith, Spring View, 10 Spring Close, Burwell, Cam-

bridge). There are essays on the fuchsia, the sweet pea and

other flowers, a list of NCCPG

group secretaries (there are

groups in most counties) and

and chickens. Chris Newton Golding gets up at five every morning to see access to the field on the right-hand to the animals before he goes to work. The stock will necessarily take precedence over the garden, and Ms Newton Golding also wants a herb patch and a vegetable garden on the other side of the house, neither of them lowmaintenance projects. Then there is the area at present occupied by the concrete track close to the house, which calls out to be fairly intensively

> Fruit trees seemed to be the answer, planted in a fairly formal quincunx pattern, equally placed out over the area. They would provide a comfortable transition from garden to landscape and be beautiful to look at as well as productive. Proper fruit trees, grown as standards or half standards would also be tolerant of what might be fairly poor soil. They would also be sheltered by the hedge that the Newton Goldings intended putting in.

> But how to get them planted? Well, you could, at a pinch, excavate holes six feet square, haul out the rubbish, fill them with decent soil (there is plenty of muck to hand here) and plant in those, retaining the bark mulch on the concrete between the

That would not be my choice. The Newton Goldings say they are never going to move again in the whole of their lives. Even if it means taking out a loan, I would get rid of the concrete before attempting to plant the area. In the long term - and they are thinking long term - this is the only solution and JCBs shift concrete rather more competently than I can crush a sugar cube. If they check on local landfill sites, they might even find someone willing to cart it all away for them for nothing.

A quick round up of demolition contractors in my own area (which may be less pricey than Northamptonshire) revealed that quotes varied widely. The most general figure quoted was £4 a square yard for breaking up and carting away concrete. That would add up in the Newton Goldings case to around £1,680.

With the concrete out of the way, the Newton Goldings could seed the area around their fruit trees with a wildflower mixture that would suit the poor, rubbly soil. They could gaze out area. I, too, need a JCB, to pluck the

Find out about Britain's tallest

the British Isles

apple tree at the Tree Register of

news of local plant sales such

as the one to be held by the

Essex group on 21 April at

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Verbier: there's some good news and some bad news

I've written before in these Snow's Up pages about Verbier, a Swiss resort that's a long-standing favourite of British skiers (and particularly popular with both the British and the Swiss for weekend trips). Some go confined to one main run there (rightly in my view) for down from Attelas to the the impressive off-piste skiing, the pleasantly traditional village ambience, the vibrant social scene and the splendid views. But others go because they think its piste skiing ranks alongside that of French megaresorts such as Courchevel and and Val d'Isère.

The comparison is wrong partly because the "four valleys" ski area that Verbier is a part of is a strung-out affair, involving links that are, to say the least, tenuous. For example, to leave the local Verbier skiing and get to the skiing of Thyon or Nendaz you have to take a lift or ski down an offpiste route. (This observation highlights another drawback of the Verbier skiing, which is that many of the best runs are now formally off-piste.) But I have accused Verbier of other problems, too: lift queues. I'm keen to make sure that my piste crowding, poor piste maintenance and marking, and limited snowmaking and all this in the resort with Europe's most expensive lift

In the course of my Decem-Waiting for me at the tourist worded letter from the director, Patrick Messeiller, objectabout dreadful queues, wrong about piste crowding (except at weekends), and so on; it is all

a "preconception" on my part. checked the files and verified son's holiday skiers, on which these criticisms were based, are real and not imagined. I concede that snowmaking has earn a copy of the book I edit, improved, although it's still Where to Ski.

Special Interest Holidays

By Chris Gill

village. The very powerful double-mono-cable gondola opened last season from Ruinettes to Attelas has helped with the queues, too but only up to a point. A visit last February by one of my most trusted correspondents revealed queues at times even for that capacious lift - and confirmed no less than six other trouble spots.

The worst of these, as even Mr Messeiller concedes, is the old and quite inadequate fourman Chassoure gondola from Tortin. This lift -a key element in the links with Thyon and replaced "in the near future"; but since I have been publicly complaining about queues for this lift since 1986, I may perhaps be excused if I say I am unimpressed by this promise. picture of Verbier is an accurate one; it is, after all, a highly popular resort, and it couldn't stay that way if people didn't like the place enough to go

My correspondent's visit ber tour of major Alpine re-sorts I paid a visit to Verbier. was, I admit, confined to only a single week which could have been an exceptionally bad one. office there was a strongly l'll certainly arrange for another correspondent to visit in high season this year, if I ing to these criticisms of the can't get there myself - but we resort. I am, he says, wrong may be unlucky again. So I invite readers' help. If you visit Verbier this season, let me know what you think of the skiing, particularly the lifts and It's not, of course - I've the density of skiers (and boarders) on the main pistes in that the reports from last sea- the Attelas/Ruinettes area. The three most detailed reports (which does not mean the three most critical) will

A head start for a quick getaway

Colin Brown and his wife flew from London City Airport to Geneva for a weekend of skiing

Airport began to pail when we were told that the 9.20am flight to Geneva would be delayed one hour and 50 minutes. We were in the departure lounge, where unfortunately there was no newspaper shop offering helpful items to fill the time. The woman at the flight desk was full of apologies and gave us a £4 voucher each for breakfast.

An hour went by, then there was another announcement. The plane was ready to leave. Scramble. The news caught my wife in the Ladies. There must be few airports in Britain where the flight desk assistant will dash into the loo to retrieve passengers so that the aircraft can take off in time to fill its slot in the air traffic, but that is

The first time you use London City Airport you can't help being struck by the easy nature of the place: it's bit like stepping back in time to the pre-war era of air travel. The traveller walks through a small hanger, past a cheery looking passport officer, through a lounge, out across the tarmac and on to the aircraft. In this deserted part of Docklands, there are still propeller engined passenger planes on some regular routes.

Our flight was by jet - an Avroliner RJ85. There was the added bonus that there were only 10 people on the the route doubles as a angement is usually in-Friday morning flight, giv- cross-country ski track, and tended for business pas-

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We trek, stay in kineses, refer and explo

Special Interest Holidays

he advantages of ing a passenger/air hostess using London City ratio of about 3:1. The flight was barely beyond Dock-lands when the complimentary champagne was being poured alongside offerings of smoked salmon nibbles. We were flying to Geneva for a weekend break

because we could not face the stress of the M4 to the West County or the M1 to the Peak District. A new motorway has brought Geneva airport to within an hour's easy drive of the ski resorts, making a long weekend in the Alps a realistic option. The only problem has been the journey to Heathrow from South East London, I had heard about London City, but did not know they had regular scheduled services to

On the first occasion I used this airport, I went for a weekend mountain biking in the Chamonix valley, before the snow fell. There are plenty of shops offering mountain bikes to rent, and the local tourist office issues a map showing the routes for mountain bikes, known as Velos Toutes Terraine (VTT). They are graded green, blue, red and black, like ski pistes, in order of difficulty. I chose an easy green towards Argentiere, past the drop zone for the parapunters, who take off from the half-way station on the Brevant,

The weather was warm, the air soft, and the saddle hard as a knife. In winter



snakes through forests of pine, following the Arve river up towards the big ski area at Argentiere. This is macho-man country, and is renowned by extreme skiers for its steeps. The next day, I pushed the bike to the top of a pass at Les Houches. It was a red route on the map, but I could hardly manage a stroke of the pedal until near the top.

Returning on the Sunday night flight, there were double the number of passengers. Nevertheless, that still gave a ratio of 20 passengers to three air hostesses. It was like having an executive iet more or less at your disposal. Clearly, this sort of exclusive arr-

sengers. but I was flying

Given the high quality of the service, it struck me as very odd that so few people use London City. Crossair flies an 82-seater, fourengined "Jumbolino" jet on the Geneva route which is as fast as the bigger jets flown from either Heathrow or Gatwick airports. The London City experience was a bit like stumbling on a secret, luxury air service. Four weeks later. I tried it again, travelling with my wife, but this time there was one snag: the French air- traffic con-

trollers were on strike, hence the delay. Once in the air, the service was just as smart as

France

courtesy champagne to fill our glasses. He assured me that the service, which has been running for about two years, will continue despite the poor take-up of passengers so far.

On the return on Sunday night, we had got to the Swissair gate 21 at Geneva airport to board the flight, when we were told about the problem of the fog. Your flight is on time, but it is being diverted, to Stansted or Luton," said the woman at the gate.

We were told the problem was that London City Airport is not fully equipped to cope with fog. The Airport denies that. In the pre-war days, people would have lit barrels of oil to burn before. The pilot even came off the fog, but the airport down the plane with the is fully equipped with an instrument landing system. The fog that weekend, I was later told, was particularly thick at Docklands. We landed at Gatwick.

It was an inconvenience I felt prepared to overlook. I am horrified by the monster that Heathrow has become and find Gatwick. overcrowded. For me, City is the best option, particularly if you are not averse to a little luxury.

> Colin Brown flew with Crossair, booked through Swissair. His return economy fare: including tax was £151. Swissair also booked a car for him through Budget at Geneva at a cost of about £30 a day. ·

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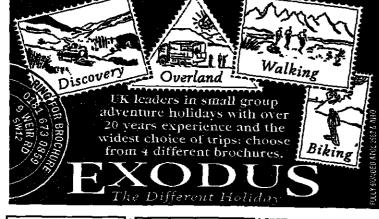
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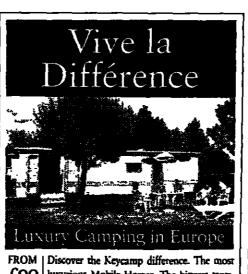
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There is an intensity about the short skiing trip an ordinary week away seem, well, ordinary

By Chris Gill

ritain is at its gloomy winter worst, the snow in your favourite resort sounds perfect. The choice of re and you're itching to get back on skis. But maybe you're finding it difficult to take a week off work at this busy time of the year. Perhaps you're just looking for a quick fix to tide you over. Could a weekend skiing trip be the answer? A small band of tour operators and a growing number of their clients think it is,

Weekend skiing isn't for everyone. Going to the Alps for only three days has two clear drawbacks. The main one is the high cost per skiing day. The fixed costs of handling your booking and getting you out to the resort have to be spread over three days instead of the usual six. The cost of packages ranges from £265 to £750, £300 to £500 is more typical. But talk to those who have done it and you're quite likely to confront a sort of evangelism. The weekend skiing convert will tell you that there is an intensity about a short skiing trip that makes an ordinary week away seem, well, ordinary. You tend to pack a lot into a short trip, and come back satisfied even if you're tired. Although the cost per day is high, the total cost of a three-hour transfer if it will get you to short trip is lower than that of a week. a resort you really fancy.

The classic long weekend trip starts with a Thursday evening scheduled flight from an airport close to your place of work - Colin Brown describes London City airport's much overlooked service from the capital on the previous page - to Geneva, Lyon or Zurich. Pick up a hire car or board a transfer minibus. Get to your resort accommodation late. Ski yourself silly for three days. Catch the last possible flight back on Sunday evening and get home late. Appear at work on Monday

morning wearing a smug grin. Variations include two- and fournight stays. To cut down that fixed has- A travel agent can be very helpful in sle factor, you can opt for air taxi transfers to and from Courchevel's airstrip - by plane for minimum cost, by helicopter for maximum excitement.

The choice of resort for a weekend trip is problematic. Resorts that offer short transfers are by definition close to cities full of skiers likely to be tempted on to your chosen slopes if the weather is good. Whereas Val d'Isère may be relatively quiet on Saturdays because most of the visitors are in transit, Verbier (half the distance from Geneva)

may be invaded by day-trippers.

The established specialists in the weekend business tend to focus on convenient resorts, putting up with the risk of crowds, Chamonix is a prime destination for weekend skiing which falls firmly in this category. Not only does it offer a lot of the most challenging skiabundant small hotels that are glad to. let their rooms just for the weekend

without levying a punitive surcharge. But my advice is to focus more on whether the resort offers the right sort of skiing, and whether you can get the right sort of deal. Consider Chamonix, of course, but don't rule out a two- or

Who to go with

Several small tour operators specialise in weekend packages, and some of the larger ones offer them as an option. Small operators who normally sell week-long packages have the flexibilities. ity to fix shorter bolidays, particularly at times when their standard programme is not heavily booked. Of course, you don't have to limit yourself to packages but it's easy to spend lot of money unless you have the time to research the market carefully. assembling the elements at reasonable cost, but unless you have an exceptional local firm, stick to the special-ist skiing agents, of which Ski

Solutions (0171-602 9900) is the

also offered. White Roc (0171-792 1188) offers a wide range of hotels (and some selfcatering) in a total of nine resorts in Switzerland, Italy and France.

Start with the brochures of the three operators dedicated to the weekend trio or to variants on it: FlexiSki (0171-352 0044) has upmarket chalets, chalethotels and hotels in Courchevel and Verbier. It offers standard four-night packages, but can provide any other

arrangements.

Sid Weekend (01367 241636) has a wide range of hotel-based possibilities set out in a rather confusing brochure.

Main resorts are Morzine, La Clusaz, and La Grave: in the last Chamonix and La Grave; in the last two, off-piste tuition or guidance are

Then there is a larger number of operators who deal mainly in sevennight holidays but advertise shorter alternatives: Bigfoot Chamonix (01491 579601) does a lot of weekend business. based in a wide range of hotels. Bladon Lines (0181-780 8800) can fix short trips out of peak season. Collineige (01276 24262) has captivating chalets in Chamonix, with four-night deals. Fresh Tracks (0181-875 9818) is an offpiste specialist whose programme includes weekend trips on specific dates- Easter in Flaine, two dates in Chamonix, five dates in macho La Grave. Knoni (01306 742500) is a mainstream operator to Switzerland, with a wide choice of hotel-based weekend holidays at the extremes of the season, Neilson (0113-239 4555) has attractively priced three-day trips to Isola 2000, in the far south of the French Alps. Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300) has a sideline in off-piste tuition, offering weekends in several resorts. The Ski Company (0171-730 9600) is an upmarket chalet operator which offers weekend deals, particularly out of high season. Swiss Travel Service (01992 456123) has hotel-based weekends in Switzerland in low season.



Snow reports

here has been patchy snow (sometimes with strong winds) in parts of the Alps this week, but there have also been some high temperatures. The result is that in many areas skiing conditions have improved slightly at altitude, while at low levels the already scratchy conditions have deteriorated.

In Austria the last modest snowfall was at the beginning of the week. Since then even the higher resorts, such as Lech, village runs have suffered, while

in lower resorts such as Kitzbühel they have become very worn. Most resorts have managed to stay fully open.

In Switzerland, most resorts are reporting less snow than a week ago. and although most areas are almost open, lower runs are unpleasant and some areas such as Gstaad and Wengen are only partly open. There was midweek snow in some French resorts, but it didn't amount to much and very little found its way to the low northerly

resorts such as Megève and La Clusaz, which desperately need it.

In Italy, altitude is the key. The outlook for the Alps is unclear, with lows and weather fronts in the Atlantic, but a big high over Russia is said to be moving slowly Alpwards.

Colorado has seen some heavy snow this week - 1.3m in Breckenridge, for example – and the storms that hit Boston and New York hit the New England resorts as well.



something to declare

Trouble spots

This week's advice from our man in the Foreign Office

Cameroon: "Highway robberies in the north of the country appear to be under control. Nevertheless, travellers between Maroua and the border with Chad should continue to seek advice from the local police and be prepared to travel with a military escort."

Philippines: "Criminal and political violence is a problem in remoter parts of North Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. The islands south west of Mindanao, where there has been heavy fighting, should be avoided."

Colombia: "Violence and kidnapping in Colombia. In rural areas there is a serious risk of being caught up in terrorist attacks or opportunistic kidnapping. Travel by air is preferable."

Libya: "Since April 1992, UN Security Council sanctions include a ban on flights to and from Libya, making speedy evacuation from Libya for medical or other emergencies difficult."

Foreign Office travel advice is available on 0171-270 4129; on BBC-2 Ceefax page 564 onwards; and on the Internet at http://www.fco.gov.uk/



Travel competition

It may have been a little chilly recently but it seems that cold climes have never been more popular. That's if the deluge of entries we've received for our Free Freeze competition for a break in Iceland or the Shetland Islands is anything to go by. We are still in the process of ploughing through the post and so will not be able to print the names of the winners and the answers this week, as originally planned. The results will appear next week

Visitors' book Cathedral Refectory, Rochester

"I like your banana cake" - Imogen, Rochester

"I'm sure this wasn't here when I went to school in Rochester"

- Roberta O'Neill, Didcot "Smells good. Nice wide door for double

 Michael, Esmee and Ruby Thornton, Orpington

"Can't wait to sing Evensong later" - Jenny Hearn and Ware Parisb Church

"Good grub. I enjoyed the starling chorus" - G Brumstead, Putney

"It was nice to find somewhere in Rochester open at 4pm! Very good" - Sandies Terner, St Albans

An upgrade, like a £10 win in Athe Lottery, is not to be sniffed at Although it only works once every two years. make it worthwhile. So at Lusaka airport on New Year's Eve, I fished a crumpled jacket and tie out of my backpack and smiled inanely at anyone wearing a uniform.

While nursing a Mosi beer (an unfortunate brand-name in a malarial country) and my economy-class boarding pass, I was joined by a party of beblazered fellow travellers. They, too, had smartened up in a bid to get upgraded. It became clear from the conversation that they were friends and family of the air crew, all travelling on staff discount tickets at fares so low that they would put Air Azerbaijan (currently offering a £159 one-way Heathrow-Karachi fare) out of business. And even though each had paid a fraction of my economy ticket, they had all been upgraded; not just to

Club World, mind, but all the

So for the first time, I took

While we economy customers were toasting the New Year with lukewarm Riesling, we were missing out on all the excitement, too. The boyfriend of one of the stewardesses proposed to her at midnight, 31,000 feet over the Sahara, and she happily accepted.

21Mnu CALDER

decisive action. Instead of just simpering at check-in staff, I actually asked for an upgrade. "No, that will not be possible". I squeezed into my seat among the other full farepaying mugs at the back of the plane, while the Champagne flowed in First.

This is the stuff of dreams for divorce lawvers.

You may suddenly be finding British Airways cabin crew particularly attractive because

marital mayhem. For example, a letter I have just received at home. It is from a skiing magazine, thanking me for joining a trip last weekend to Zeli am See.

"It was a pleasure to meet you", coos the letter. This is no form letter, but a personally signed missive from the publisher of Daily Mail Ski magazine. Yet I maintain that last weekend took me nowhere more adventurous than a cheap-day return to Rochester, with my feet planted firmly in Kentish mud rather than Austrian snow.

The column's first prize of the year, a bottle of dodgy Riesling (which you may wish person who can provide the

of the prospect of free or one who actually was on the vastly reduced travel in First trip and can explain what Class. But before you suc- happened during it. The letcumb to wedlock, beware the ter includes the ominous appointed than I that despite careful thought, not everything went according to plan". So what went wrong? Anyway, if this letter is a foretaste of Virtual Travel, I think I'll stick to Kent.

Dritain's seaside resorts are Degaring up for what they hope will be a second bumper summer, but last August's sun seems to have gone to the heads of Poole's publicity department. A brochure for the Dorset resort reminds would-be visitors that Poole Harbour has Europe's largest onshore oilfield, then trills cheerfully "The largest peacetime evacuation of civilians took place in Poole in 1988 when a chemical factory to drink lukewarm) to the caught fire." Neighbouring Bournemouth, busily probest explanation of how I moting clean air by banning joined this particular mailing smoking on three stretches of list. The same prize to some- beach, must be fuming.

READERS' OFFER

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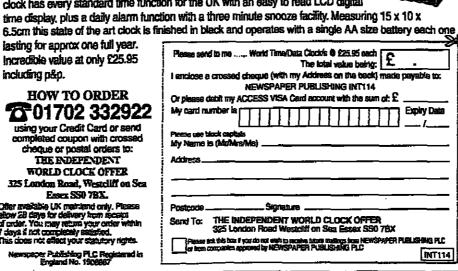
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Blair and Clarke: are they by chance related?

No politician shifts a society single-handed, by sheer force of personality. The trick is to spot the trend, sense the mood of a society, capture it, mould it, describe it, and then claim the credit for it.

That is what Margaret Thatcher did in the Eighties. In an era that saw the world opening up to global competition, her advocacy of free markets, privatisation and lower taxation were of the moment and defined that moment. As a result, "Thatcherism" gained hegemony in the country and eventually succeeded in converting her political opponents in the process. It spread throughout the Anglo-Saxon world, Europe, Asia and the post-Communist states. This was an extraordinarily successful exercise in divining and appropriating the Zeitgeist.

But what next? The struggle to differentiate Britain's main political parties - creating blue or red water between them - demonstrates the lack of a fresh Big Idea. We are halfway through the Nineties, with no new map to plot our course.

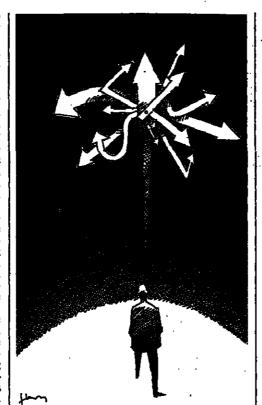
This week Tony Blair and (making a come-back) Margaret Thatcher set about changing all that. They offered themselves as cartographers of the decade. The Labour leader went to Singapore and sent back a message that a "stakeholder society" was the way forward for Britain. Meanwhile, Baroness Thatcher returned to the legacy of her guru, Keith Joseph, and set out her two key ideas for the Nincties: shrinking the state and creating an anti-European Little England.

These ideas are desperately vague. It is hard to know what a stakeholder society means: Mr Blair, perhaps deliberately, has done little to resolve the confusion. It is just as difficult to know how Lady Thatcher would achieve her ends, which have until now been beyond British politicians. In power, she herself committed Britain to its present involvement with Europe and failed to reduce the level of national income spent by the state.

Yet vagueness is not necessarily fatal to new ideas. When Margaret Thatcher took office in 1979, she did not have a grand plan; she had a basic set of principles that chimed with popular opinion and were to underpin the specific policies of the following decade. The vital question is: do any of these ideas, or aspects of them, strike a chord today? In 10 years time, will they, like Eighties Thatcherism, be big enough to label

Mr Blair's stakeholder society, for all its haziness, certainly resonates. Commentators have been intrigued by the word. The notion of everyone having a stake in society makes sense. It seems to describe an inclusive country, in which everyone has roots and a say over what happens. We need these notions at a time when competition and globalisation are tearing apart the glue that holds society together.

Jobs for life and the traditional welfare state are both under threat. They are increasingly seen as expensive luxuries at a time when flexible workforces and low taxation, financing a mini-mal state, are said to be the key to maintaining competitiveness. As a result, social cohesion vital for stability and economic productivity - is in danger as crime rises and an underclass of the disadvantaged and disaffected develops. Britain,



ing a humane society in a global era.

But there is plenty of suspicion that the stakeholder idea is no more than a repackaging of failed Labour policies. It invokes the idea of empowering groups or individuals who have claim to be included in decision-making. But if Mr Blair merely intends to reinvigorate the power of trade unions and other institutions that ran the corporate state of the Seventies, then he has made a big mistake. Indeed, even if this was not intention, Mr Blair may have made a political error in resurrecting Labour's old ghosts.

He has also, by implication, associated himself with a body of literature about stakehold-ing in companies that says businesses should be run not only in the interests of shareholders, but of customers, employees, consumers and suppliers. This may sound wonderful in theory, but over-regulation could suffocate business and enterprise in much the same way as Labour's last failed exercise in economic micro-management - nationalisation.

In short, stakeholding may have nothing to do with the trends of the time, which are towards deregulation, free markets, individualism and increased competitiveness. But there is one version that might catch on, namely the notion that everyone should have their own individual stake in the welfare state. That could mean compulsory saving for state-overseen pensions schemes, vouchers for education and perhaps even new ways of establishing rights to treatment in the

If this is what Mr. Blair means, then he may

along with other countries, needs a way of build- | be on to a Big Idea, albeit a controversial one. that could prove politically impossible to implement. It would convert the welfare state into a system that was socially inclusive, but did not necessarily guarantee equality and which paid out more on the basis of lifetime contribution than need. It would represent a marriage of choice with collectivism, of self-reliance with state support, while giving people a greater sense of owning their entitlements. And it would permit a shift away from conventional taxation. to claims by the state being earmarked for specific

If this is the direction in which Mr Blair is moving, there are good grounds for believing that his ideas will have a wider resonance. Indeed he will find plenty of fellow travellers on the Tory left. Much of what Mr Blair has to say about social inclusion and economic pragmatism echoes the language used by Kenneth Clarke. The pace of change has created fears and uncertainties among men and women in every walk of life. A strong welfare state has an important role in reducing these fears." So said the

Chancellor in his Mais Lecture 18 months ago. In short, the chief British political divide may not be between Labour and the Tories. but between the Blair/Clarke philosophy - Blarkism and Margaret Thatcher (and her acolytes), who this week made her bid to be the architect of the

next decade, just as she was of the last. Who will win? We cannot be sure. But the ideas that will triumph and eventually engulf all parties will be those that best ensure our surviva in today's global, competitive market.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

A&E wards: conditions that take a toll on doctors' morale | Heaven is a place on earth

From Dr Julian Evears Sir: I strongly disagree with your assertion that junior doctors should be "press-ganged" into working in Accident and Emergency departments (lead-

ing article. 11 January). spent six months in two casualty departments in southeast London and I would on their private and profesrather resign my profession

than do it again. Yours faithfully,
Notwithstanding being twice JULIAN EYEARS assaulted by patients I was trying to help, having the door of my treatment room kicked in by a man angered by the fact that my dying patient had jumped the queue ahead of his broken finger, and my writing table taken away by hospital management on the grounds that in England - the great shortage the doctors were "spending too of doctors training to be gen-much time writing". I was eral practitioners. allowed two weekends out of

working anti-social hours. enough doctors wish to work in the NHS anymore, especially in A&E. A significant number of my contemporaries have been so disillusioned that they have left medicine altogether.

Your leader demonstrates a public misconception: that doctors are some sort of breed

of native species

apart of medical soldiers, ready down the country. In some From Mr Hugh I. Thomson to be drafted into any situation. cases, patients are cared for at Sir: The crisis of beds and to be drafted into any situation. Doctors are actually human beings. They have loved ones, emotions and outside lives. They don't want to work in A&E because the conditions are frequently so inhuman that they take an unacceptable toll sional lives. Yours faithfully,

From Dr E. E. J. Martin Sir: In your leading article (11 January) you fail to mention one of the major factors leading to a shortage of accident and emergency junior doctors

London, SW2

The Royal College of Gen-11 free, and was almost always eral Practitioners encourages The stark reality is that not in A&E. However, the number of doctors training to become GPs has fallen by nearly 25 per cent over the past few years.

Recently, more surgery is carried out on a day-care basis, with a patient being discharged on the same day as their operation. Large psychiatric hospitals are being closed up and

home under the "hospital at home" scheme. When these patients are discharged the work that was previously done ber of emergency admissions, in the hospital is added to the tasks of the GP.

At the same time, the GP is many of the difficulties in having to get involved in purchasing the care for his patients. If one adds to this the increased requirements for health screening, the flood of paper now required by the Government about all our activities, the cessfully there must be no great increase in litigation slack in the system: every against GPs and the increased employee and every piece of demand for services at weekends and at nights, it is clear that the job of a GP has both changed and expanded hugely.

Young doctors see this great and accidents, emergencies increase in work required of and uncertainties. There has GPs, with no increase in income to be a spare capacity to cope and a lowering of public esteem with the unpredictability of GPs in training to do six months in the profession, and they dealing with human beings becomes adept at making one-self miserable through self-preicine. It is this lack of family doctors in training which is perhaps the most important factor in the understaffing of our accident departments. Yours faithfully

E.E.J. MARTIN

From Mr Norman Myers

The NHS is being turned

into a National Health Busi-

ness. To run a business suc-

equipment need to be working

to the limit. This is not so

when it comes to people's

health. There are epidemics

If the Government will not

learn this lesson, the present

crisis will be repeated again

and again.

Birmingham

HUGH J. THOMSON

Consultant Surgeon

Yours.

staffing in the NHS in recent "The church's empty hell" (11 days has been precipitated by a January), you refer to the errodramatic increase in the numand the reason for this is not Heaven is a place of ultimate being for and with others, could Hell be, as T. S. Eliot clear. What is clear is that said, the place of only self -hence of ultimate torment responding to this crisis result from the changes in the health service over the past few years.

through total emptiness?
In similar style, could it be that the next world, whether up or down, will not be so very different from this one? If, as is sometimes suggested, Heaven is peaches and cream, there will be scant scope for such basic attributes as compassion, empathy and related forms of fellow feeling. Equally to the point, if one cannot make one-self happy in the here and now, at the end of a busy life and what true hope for the next time around? And if one occupation here, might that also prove fine training for the

next world? After all, if we pray "Thy kingdom come on Earth" and recall that "The kingdom of Heaven is within you", then could there be similar potential

this extent, it should not really Sir: In your leading article matter to us here whether there is another life ahead: a life lived to the full, and in the neous impression of Hell as "a one way that some believe place of endless torment". If makes that feasible, is surely its one way that some believe own reward.

NORMAN MYERS Honorary Visiting Fellow Green College Oxford 12 January

From Dr Richard Ladle Sir: Contrary to the views of the Church of England's doctrine commission ("Church elders pour cold water on hellfire and damnation", 11 Januwould consider eternal existence (discorporated or not) as

purgatorial. The commissioners' opinions seem nothing more than whistling in the dark while the monster of modern science breathes heavily in the corner of the room. Yours (un)faithfully, RICHARD J. LADLE

for the kingdom of Hell? To 11 January

The blood of human kindness

Sir: Having regularly donated blood in America during much of our adult lives, my wife and I were surprised and offended by Louise Jury's contrast (Section Two; "Death by a thousand cuts", 11 January) of British donors with those in the US, where donors participate ..

for money".
Only a small minority donate blood for money - mostly the unemployed in large cities. Even that number has probably diminished in recent years because of HIV and hepatitis contamination.

The great majority are like British donors, giving "out of the goodness of their hearts" and expecting that the blood will be used in their home areas for those in need. Regular blood drives are held at colleges and universities as well as in business offices, and greater numbers of people typically respond with donations in

emergencies. There, as here, the giving of blood is one of those all too rare acts of pure altruism. Yours sincerely, FOREST HANSEN Alvechurch, Worcestershire

Post-natal escape: sleep and bed

11 January

From Ms Mary North Sir. Regarding the continuing correspondence about shackling pregnant and post-natal women prisoners: after the births of my three children, I was grateful to be wheeled back to the ward, because tottering was as much as I could manage.

The only escape on my mind was to a clean bed and a good sleep. Yours sincerely, Mary North Wirksworth,

Derbyshire '

11 January

Earth

The week has come to a bad end. Hard upon the news that the remaining Sex Pistols are making a comeback after 18 years, and just before Mrs Thatcher animated her audience of posthumous Keith Joseph admirers, came the Church's disavowal of punitive Hell. Can it be true, I wondered, that Johnny Rotten and Denis Healey, Michael Fool Kenneth Baker are both to and Shirley Williams. An escape eternal punishment? No demons with pliers, no Boschian monsters by whom to be eaten and then excreted. none of the fates which one had mentally stored up for the

offensive and the morally No threat of damnation will therefore prevent the coming together of Britain's most notorious punk band - even if God has already taken care of the complex bassist, Sid Vicious. The other bands of the era are ong gone, the young men to become journalists and wheelwrights, the girls to take up veterinary nursing, or (as in the case of Poly Styrene, of "Oh Bondage, Up Yours" fame) to devote themselves to Krishna consciousness. Only John Lydon et al have apparently betrayed their art to become 'accomplished musicians". Next year they go on tour with

What will their act be like? As I am almost exactly a contemporary of theirs, I am painfully aware of my increasing limitations. Pogo-ing is technically feasible, but can only be done in five-second bursts with 10-minute rest periods, to allow the cartilage to pop back. Gobbing, too, is not what it was: age dries up the juices a bit, and it would take an awful lot of hawking to summon up anything worthwhile. Take it from me, boys, at 40, anarchic sexuality has to be carefully organised - a case of Try And Find The Boilocks.

all their old hits.

But what is truly awful about the Sex Pistols' return is that it is a return. Unlike, say, the Rolling Stones or Bowie, who have kept at it and developed. Rotten & co are attempting to be their former selves. going back that is so appalling.

Consider this nightmare. The whole country indulges in a 1977 reunion, forced to resume the roles and lives we all led then. Except that we cannot become younger, or shed the experiences of the intervening years. So the elderly Jim Callaghan presides over a tottering cabinet, including embittered David Owen is

Foreign Secretary.

Margaret leads the Tories. not in her naïve, almost irlish 1977 incarnation, but as she is now, with recessive gums, thyroidal eve-bulge and an enormous chip on her shoulder. In Washington, a decrepit Jimmy Carter is just beginning his stint in the White House. As if this weren't bad enough, the whole country is invited to hold street parties in a ghastly post-Diana parody of the Queen's Silver Jubilee. British Leyland makes cars, a pontificating Geoff Boycott leads England out against the Aussies, tubby 40-plus footballers with Scouser mous-

Chrissie Evert at Wimbledon.

A wrinkled, balding Woody. Allen directs Diane Keaton in a comedy of sexual manners set: in New York and featuring relationships with very young-: women - so no change there. Larry Holmes fights George; Forman for the heavyweight championship of the world.

taches pantingly contest the Cup Final, and Virginia Wade

creaks her way to victory over

Sorry, that's a bit far-fetched. I am transported back to a grimy room in a student house: in Ladbroke Grove, living off Birds Eye individual shepherd's pies and arguing about tigatoi-t let-cleaning rota. From time to time I am visited by various girl- ? friends whom I used and abused in those days. Except that now they have children and therapists, complain about the cleanliness of the sheets, talk about what they want out of sex and fail to fade away on 3 demand.

No. Johnny. No. Maggie. There can be no going back. To revisit the past, knowing what we now know, that, surely unchanged. Going on is OK, it's whatever the bishops say would be Hell.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

There is only one bright spot. Job insecurity is at its worst among [7]. Tory MPs and councillors as they watch their government tottering. to the grave - Lord Healey, Labour peer

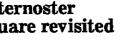
Once you have swam through the fifth spewed out by the Conservative Central Office, you find you're in clean water and you can swim freely and say what you think - Emma Nicholson, encour aging others to defect from the Tories to the Liberal Democrats

The best thing everyone can do today is roll right over and go back to sleep - Radio announcer in New York City, where restdents awoke to snow banks up to six feet deep

It's so cold you can see the lies coming from a politician's mouth It's so cold you can see the new host, on the Washington blazard Come back into place! I have a hip that hops out sometime Baroness Robson of Kiddington, Liberal Democrat, rising to speak in a Lords debate on alternative medicine

As far as I can tell by their views on European federalism, such people's creed would be better described as 'No Nation Conservatism' - Lady Thatcher on 'One Nation' Tories

As any tazi driver will tell you, whether you liked her or not, at least you knew where you were with Margaret Thatcher - Tony Blair



From Mr J. A. Tunmer Sir: I was concerned by your report "Mad cows? Not out of Africa?" (10 January). The production of beef in the fragile arid regions of southern Africa where rinderpest, tsetse fly and foot-and-mouth demand the segregation of cattle from wildlife (which have natural immunity to some diseases) has necessitated the construction of vast fences which prevent wildlife having access to

and migration routes. This has resulted in terrible suffering to indigenous grazing animals and has decimated some species. Additionally, the degradation of natural grassland caused by livestock grazing is evident to anybody flying over Botswana, Furthermore, water management in Namibia by open canal forms a lethal

their traditional water, grazing

While British butchers may wish to avoid British beef because of their fear of BSE, perhaps the vegetarianism of butcher Ken Bell's grandchildren is a far better solution to the problem than his demanding Namibian beef. Yours faithfully, J. A. TIMMER

How to strip like a dream

London, SE19

From Mr N. Metcalfe Sir. After failing, for over six months, to remove wallpaper from my house using a steam stripper and chemical wallpaper stripper, I had given up

However, after experimenting, I discover the most effective cure is wallpaper paste! One coat, left for 20 minutes, and the wallpaper is removed like a dream.

Why? Yours incredulously. N. METCALFE Sheffield 11 January



Sir: When the proposed scheme for the redevelopment of Paternoster Square (Section Two, 8 January) first emerged, I warmed to it. I visited the exhibition in the crypt of St Paul's and thought it seemed warm and humane, in contrast to the proposals by Sir Richard Rogers and others which seem rather tired and formulaic. I was under the impression.

the original street pattern, and maybe some of the atmosphere that existed before the Blitz. Since then, I have become aware of the true nature of the scheme. Far from being a genuine and people-orientated development, it is in reality a hulking steel-framed office block, a patronising transatlantic sham designed to get around the mediocre tastes of

Prince Charles, and a public

which won't be overjoyed at yet

would to some extent recreate

another office scheme. The question is what is to be done instead. It would be nice to establish the pre-Blitz atmosphere, but this is not easy. This sort of thing has to grow of its own accord, and any development must be of quality due to its siting. Maybe the answer is something along the lines of the current proposal, but without the sham and the tweeness, and with a diverse function.

Yours faithfully. JULIAN BASSETT London, SW2

From Mr B. W. Tidlett Sir: I have a personal interest in the development of Paternoster Square as I worked as a young teenager on the original development in the Sixties, and, as it was my first job in the con-



Carl Laubin's painting of the proposed redevelopment of Paternoster Square

struction industry. I had never seen anything so vast being built. At the time, it was obviously described as modern architecture and the shape of the future, but, even as a young lad, I thought it should have complemented St Paul's Cathedral. As St Paul's is one of our major tourist attractions, it would make the surrounding area that much more attractive if the new development and St Paul's could be thought of as one. Yours sincerely, B. W. TULLETT

London, E13 From Mr Roger Houghton Sir: The fault of the Paternoster Square scheme is not its neo-classicism but its attempt to hide behind a superficial and poorly executed layer of classical style. The classical orders are as

relevant a basis for architectural design 1,500 years after Rome as they were 1,300 years after. Their past use in the British Isles has shown them to be ideally suited to the urban environments and as adaptable to domestic use as to civic. Yours faithfully, ROGER HOUGHTON

From Ms Grace H. Farmer Sir: I do not think that the proposed development should be surely, include open space allowed to go ahead. The proposed scheme represents a mish-mash of pastiche archi-tecture and would not enhance the beauty of the Cathedral.

By far the best solution for the site would be to knock down all the buildings and create a park. A nicely landscaped open space would enhance the Cathedral, provide a perfect

2. The plan, produced during the Second World War, for the post-war reconstruction of central London. Yours sincerely. ROBIN MILLER London, N1

setting for one of the country's

gems, and give the City of Lon-

Sir: Has anyone thought of

consulting two pertinent docu-

1. Wren's designs for the set-

ting/immediate surroundings of

his masterpiece, which would,

around the entire structure as

well as. I believe, wide, cere-

monial stairs to the Thames,

ideal for state occasions.

don a much-needed park.

Yours sincerely,

GRACE FARMER

From Mr Robin Miller

London, N5

ments?

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Face 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

LDITUR: Charles Wilson DEPUTY EDITOR: Martin Jacques MAYAGEAG EDITUR: Colin Hughes SECTION TWO EDITOR: Charles Leadbeater Seturnay EDITOR: David Rubis EXECUTIVE NEWS LIDITOR: Michael Williams ASSISTANT EDITOR: Simon Kelder Newstaffer Published PLC, BOARD OF DERECTORS: Liam Healy (chairman), Lord Borrie, Juan Luis Cubrilin, Ben Bradker, Javier Diez de Rylanco, Brendan Hupkins. David Montgomery. Andreas Whittam Smith Advistors Director: Jeremy Reed

Dazzled by the music and the exotic perfume, Dickie doesn't notice the 'I love Egypt' baseball caps

By Lucy Naylor

How to get there

Lucy Naylor paid £475 (including taxes) for an 8-day cruise with Voyages Jules Verne (0171-723 5066). Numerous companies offer flights and holidays to the Nile with or without cruises. For example, Connections (017) 493 4123) has a oneweek holiday departing Gatwick on 19 January, costing £359 including cruise from Luxor to airplane meal what dunnit. Aswan and back.

How to get in

British visitors to Egypt require a visa, obtainable from the Egyptian Consulate-General; call a premium-rate number. 0891 887777, for

Where to seek advice

The Egyptian State Tourist Office is based at 168 Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-493 5282). Foreign Office travel advice for Egypt is available on 0374 500900.

my cruise from Aswan to Luxor and back, and I am enjoying being the only person on board who hasn't experienced a World War. The lunch bell sounds - or rather, a waiter most people to peel themselves off the deck and head downstairs to the dining room. The unfortunates who can't stomach the idea of food stay sitting in the shade with Agatha Christie's Death on the Nile. Those not read-

The rest of the 140 people gathered on board the MS Ra are playing dividing themselves up into tables - the thrice-daily game of who-tosit-with. On my table Elizabeth. an imperial 75-yearold, and Rosemary, her pink and portly 50-year-old daughter, start to fall out quite sourly over the history of the Temple of Edfu we visited by horse and cart earlier belly dancing. Noticeable by that day. But the rest of us find we can chat amicably over their heads.

Then, full to the brim of our panamas, we trot back up to the deck to sit in the pool or bubble gently in the jacuzzi. All the while the scenery floats by: the river-hugging strips of sugar cane and palm trees, the desert with unreal mountains of orange sand. "It's like a film, isn't it," murmurs a sunlounger as she watches her Egyptian contemporaries washing clothes in the Nile. All those at the water's edge - which is most of the population of Egypt - wave at the boat and inspire a quotation from Antony and Cleopatra from Dickie, the Bournemouth bachelor: "The barge she sat in, like a burnish'd throne. Burn'd on the water.

The people display tokens of greeting - a large number of which they hope to offload on Dickie and his shipmates for as many Egyptian pounds as possible. But, dazzled by the musical instruments played by young boys, the exotic perfume and sensuous muslin wafted around, Dickie hears no sales pitches nor sees the "I love Egypt" baseball caps. It must have been a doddle of a living for these merchants when there were 200 boats squeezing on to the Nile. With tourist numbers dwindling, it is harder now. But not that hard. Before long the MS Ra is draped in if it's quite the thing.

The poop was beaten gold;

t is midday on day two of white muslin and smelling of sandalwood beads.

To avoid the really blistering sun, trips to shore are taken when the passengers are barely awake (breakfast, therefore, has the atmosphere of a midnight feast). This tinkles the xylophone. It stirs sometimes hinders us from taking it all in, and we stagger round the Valley of the Queens in a trance-like state. Night-time is when the

boat people really wake up. A

50th birthday cake sets the ball rolling on the first night. On the second night a fancy ing discuss whether it was the dress party is announced and a rack of garments produced. I abide by the rule "the older the passenger, the fewer the inhibitions. Middle ground is claimed by a sedate foursome who play bridge in the midst of it all, wearing sensible sheets and tea towels. The evening's mirth is provided by Irene, who tries to sip her cocktail through a sequinned yashmak.

Night four is set aside for his presence is Dickie the bachelor, who fractured his arm during the previous evening's sound and light show at the Temple of Karnak. A combination of darkness, startling spotlights and 2,000year-old statues apparently speaking with BBC voices. conspired to make him fall. This has put paid to Dickie's lone excursions to shore, which it is just as well: even one-handed, he is the best belly-dancer the MS Ra has ever witnessed. Jo, May and Val accompany him with chorus girl kicks - they are a trio who have cruised the canals of Britain together for a week every year since they finished their School Certificate.

The days and the temples come and go. Never have I come across so much faith in life after death. It's a good dinner-table conversation. Most of the cruisers say they wouldn't bet the crown jewels on it like the ancient Egyptians seem to have done. The size of their tombs - and their egos...

Queen Hatshepsut's mortuary temple swims before our eyes in the heat. We climb the steps and at the top, among the pillars, look at the desert stretched out before us. Our smiling silence is broken by squawks of laughter from Jo, May and Val. Dickie is belly-dancing in front of a sphine. The others aren't sure



Last day but one and glance at a string of beads Christie wrote her book. We Britain is on the horizon, its thing up there for them, but memory evoked by a visit Kitchener Island by felucca. It's exhilarating to leave the floating hotel and really sail, touching the water as the boat scuds across the river. Heavier passengers obligingly lean forward when the tilting becomes rather more than is strictly good fun.

Clambering on to the island, we find ourselves once again swamped by the merchants. "Here come the barracudas," warns Henry (dubbed the General), and we all practise the eyesforward manoeuvre. One

LAST RESORT Mbuzini, South Africa

by Thecla Schreuders

ficult 100 yards. The weaker ones fall for a few scarabs. but the rest stride bravely through empty handed. Kitchener Island is a botanical garden of shady delights, and a fine place to stroll. Dickie finds a friend in a cheeky monkey that won't let him go away from its cage without a racket. Rosemary and Elizabeth enjoy a Coca-Cola and a bench under a

On the last day there is just time for elevenses at the Moorish Old Cataract Hotel in Aswan, where Agatha across Siberia by train.

of the Eastern Transvaal.

of 60 children, and he's still

going strong. His clients travel

to this remote spot from all

over southern Africa for his

renowned skills in divination

Our first trip up to Mbuzini

seemed interminable; we

turned off the national road

and for a while travelled

through corn and sisal fields.

Then we headed into the hills

and left tarmac for gravel and

the sort of roads for which you

should have a sturdy vehicle

if you want your internal

organs to remain unscram-

bled. After about an hour, we

crested the line of hills in

clouds of red dust and saw

Mbuzini spread out before us.

small agricultural settlement.

Mpapane is one of the wealth-

iest men of the district; with

so many wives and children,

he has plenty of labour for his

fields and numerous appren-

edge of his comfield is a clear-

ing in which stands an ancient

fig tree, hung with the ragged garments of accused witches.

turns up at Mpapane's home-

A steady stream of clients

It isn't a town so much as a

and herbal medicine.

hol during the day, but refusing gin and lemon served by perfectly poised waiters in white linen on the terrace isn't cricket. The General and Rosemary are laughing in a corner, his wife and her mother are in cahoots. Dickie and the school friends are in danger of upsetting the poise of the waiters and being

ejected from the terrace. I am talking to silver-bunned Mary. She deftly deflects my questions about the war, orders us another drink and tells me about her next trip

DEPARTURES

Chay Blyth's Grand Tour sets sail in 1998 on a 30month voyage aboard a fleet of 67ft sailing yachts. The trip is divided into 15 separate voyages. An eight-week jour-ney in May/ June 1999 begins in Tokyo and extends along the line of the Aleutian islands and around the Gulf of Alaska before sailing south to Vancouver. This sector costs £11,820.

The last leg of the journey, in May/ June 2000, sails north from Iceland to the Norwegian island of Svalbard (Spitzbergen), returning to Tower Bridge in London. The cost for these final eight weeks is £9,691. The trip is organised by Challenge Business International (01579 348387).

The first charter flights from Gatwick to Damascus begin on Valentine's Day. From 14 February to 22 May, Voyages Jules Verne (0171-616 1000) will run a programme of holidays based on the flights, taking in Syria and Jordan. The price of £595 excludes visa fees and airport taxes. Single supplement is £165.

One year from now, you could be touching down in Britain after a fortnight of wildlife photography in the Falkland Islands. Photo Travellers (01483 425448) is organising the trip, which costs £3,295. Because of the restrictions of the Britten Norman Islander aircraft that will ferry the phototourists around, numbers are limited to eight.

kite strong enough to pull Ayou along the beach is offered by Natural Heights (0181-682 8980), a specialist activity operator based at Burgau on Portugal's Algarve coast. As well as revealing the differences between quadrifoils and power kites, the company also offers horseriding, cycling and juggling. In West Africa, Kitebreaks Gambia (01432 264206) offers an all-in package of £26 per day for accommodation, meals and kite instruction (flights are extra). The venue is Rasta Kunda, a locally owned and operated tourist encampment.

being offered in the new days with Skyros in the past.

sailing, golfing,

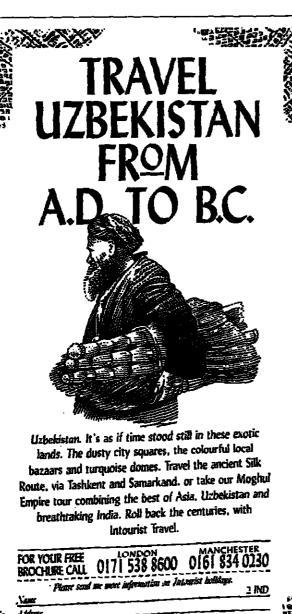
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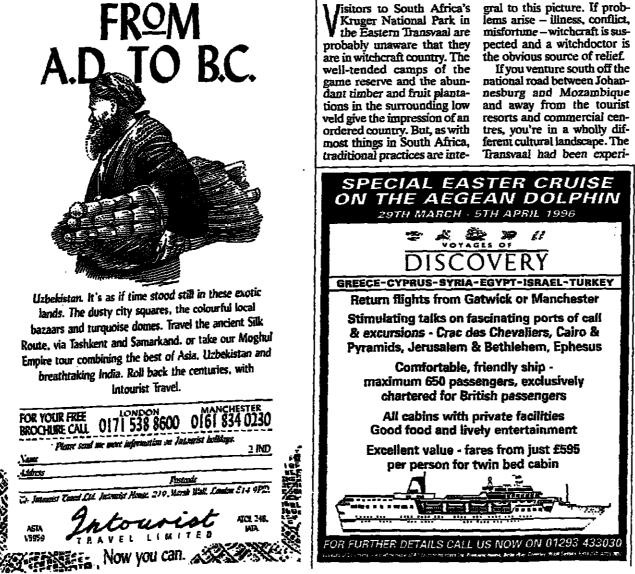
brochure from Eurosites (01706 830888). Two adults and four children travelling to one of the company's sites on the Costa Brava or Costa Dorada pay a total of £85 in late April. This includes ferry travel between Ramsgate and Dunkerque; you have to bring your own car. In peak season, the total rises to £490 - £82 per person. Eurosites also has holidays by the Med in France and Italy.

The big package holiday trend for summer '96 is the allinclusive holiday - but it is by no means a new idea. Club Mark Warner (0171-393 3131) has had a 20-year start on most of the travel industry in providing holidays where everything from breakfast to boardsailing is included in the price. At the secluded Mark Warner Clubhotel Cap d'Or. on the Greek Peloponnese across the water from Spetses. a high-season week costs £1,306. This includes flights, meals and activities. Use of VIP lounge at Gatwick on the outward leg is available for the modest extra sum of £20.

The naturist holiday company Peng Travel (01768 471832) celebrates its silver jubilee this summer. The firm is based in Romford, but offers clothes-free holidays around the Mediterranean. In Spain, naturist resorts are located on Ibiza and on the coast of Andalucia - notably the purpose-built Costa Natura, near Gibraltar. The main resort, however, is Cap d'Agde on the Mediterranean coast of France. Six nights, travelling by coach from Britain, costs between £185 and £453, depending on dates and accommodation.

To follow in Rupert Brooke's pen strokes, book a place at one of the Writer's Workshop weeks on the island of Skyros in the Sporades. The Skyros Centre (0171-267 4424 or email skyros@easynet.co.uk) has recruited authors such as DM Thomas, Sue Townsend and Jill Neville to teach creative writing on the island. Prices range from £495 to £755, excluding air fares from Britain, but discounts of up to AMediterranean holiday for 15 per cent are offered to people who have taken holi-







stead for treatment of various physical and metaphysical complaints and will often stay for several days. But there is no cosy inn or motel for them. The closest thing to a public amenity is the "shebeen", or bar lounge, which sells beer and Coca-Cola.

If you want to make a trip up to Mbuzini and need to stay for a few days, the best thing is to make friends with the proprietor of the supermarket, who may help you out. But it's easy enough to make day trips up from any of the luxury hotels bordering the Kruger Park, such as the Malelane Sun Lodge (where crocodile stirfries are common fare), or even from Nelspruit, the regional capital, which is two hours away. There, you can stay at the Paragon Hotel, an appropriately named Victorian throwback, and sip iced coffees at the poolside. The tices for his practice. On the contrast with Mbuzini couldn't

> 'The Witching Tree', part of BBC2's 'Under the Sun' series, Wednesday, 9.30pm.

be more marked.



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By Andrew John Davies

lages and picturesque riverside ramblings. Take Colchester, for example, our oldest recorded town. The Romans set up their first capital here in AD43 when Emperor Claudius came marching over from Rome, accompanied by elephants, to accept the surrender of 11 British kings. But if the Roman legacy is apparent throughout the town, so, too, are the 200 elegant Georgian houses. Intrusions of the modern world, namely the vile concrete blocks of Essex University, are mercifully segregated on a distant campus.

The main railway station is

"Essex Man" and "Essex red-brick structure dominating Girl". One of England's the skyline. This is Jumbo, the largest counties, Essex is old Victorian water tower named stuffed full of timber after a famous African elephant churches, enchanting vil- and now due for conversion into apartments. The weather vane still displays an elephant.

> Near by is the Balkerne Gate. the largest surviving Roman gateway in Britain. Its massiveness shows how the Romans securely girdled the town with fortifications after Boudicea had razed the previous settlement to the ground in AD61.

Much of the original two-mile stretch of wall, some nine inches thick, is still visible. Near by is the Mercury Theatre and also an arts centre in an old church. Colchester endured an 11-week siege during the Civil War in 1648. The Royalists set up a some way from the town. Walk large cannon here on St Mary's European Union ban on one At the end on the right are the up North Hill towards the cen-tre and your eye will be irre-Dumpty. It was eventually aged the revival of the industry. Botolph's Priory, severely dam-

huck away the labels sistibly drawn towards a massive demolished by the Parliamentary forces, giving us the rhyme: "All the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty together again". Walk towards the High Street

and admire the straight and broad roads, another Roman legacy. Saunter through the ground floor colonnade of what was once the Corn Exchange down towards the splendid Town Hall of 1902. This is Edwardian extravaganza at its best, topped by St Helena, the town's patron saint. Further down the tower are four figures representing Colchester's main industries: fisheries, agriculture, engineering and the military.

Every year the mayor holds an Oyster Feast here at which invited guests sit down to quaff the local speciality. A recent

The Romans were partial to oysters or Colchester Natives - their shells have even been excavated has a fine Norman arch. in Rome.

On the other side of the High Street is the charming Red Lion Hotel with a frontage of about 1500. Go through the nearby alley towards the Social History Museum located in another converted church.

Close by but set back from Trinity Street is a real find, namely Tymperleys Clock Museum in a 15th-century timberframed house. The fine array of clocks, quite apart from their functional value, are objects of beauty. Make sure you are there on the bour when they chime and ring in a magical orchestral symphony.

Turn down Eld Lane and then along attractive Vineyard Street. remnants of the medieval St

aged during the Civil War siege, but whose impressive west front

Turn up Queen Street, past yet more Roman wall, towards the Natural History Museum in yet one more ex-church. I dare you to go inside and plunge your hand deep into the Feely Box and grope the insects. On the other side of the road is the exquisite Hollytrees of 1718, now a museum devoted to

domestic bygones. Close by is Colchester Castle which proudly boasts the largest keep or central tower anywhere in England - much bigger than the White Tower at the Tower of London. The Norman castle was built on what had been the Roman Temple of Claudius. Never ones to waste building materials, the Normans incorporated the bands of Roman red brick.

Castle Park is an excellent ester". Mr Beckett was right.

place to stroll. Leave by the Ryegate Road exit and enter one of England's best-kept secrets, the Dutch Quarter where several hundred Dutch and Flemish refugees set up in the late 16th century, bringing with them their expert weaving skills. The overhanging upper storeys of the houses are a delight.

Make your way through to the river Coine, the reason why the town sprang up here in the first place. Delicacies were once shipped from here back to Rome, including our much-prized grey-hounds. Stroll along the riverside until you reach the bridge in North Station Road. Turn right back towards the station.

In 1907 a Mr RA Beckett published Romantic Essex: "The spell of a magic Past, carelessly hidden beneath a prosaic Present, this is the spell of Colch-

彩 UK DEPARTURES

Dasil Fawlty must be furning: Bournemouth is going all-out for the non-smoking trade. Its new visitor's brochure (available on 01202 451700) details three stretches of tobacco-free beach in the Dorset resort, and features a hotel - the Shelley Villa (01202 302400) - for nonsmokers only. A week of halfboard costs £159; and if the telephone is too primitive a form of communication, you can e-mail the place at shelleyvilla@bournemouthnet.co.uk.

Eurther north in Dorset. I hardy souls can take part in a guided walk through Thomas Hardy countryside any Wednesday and Sunday. departing at 10am from the Town Pump in Dorchester. You visit the writer's birthplace at Higher Bockhampton and the home at Max Gate where he lived for 40 years. The eight-mile walk concludes with afternoon tea, which is not included in the cost of £5.

Shropshire County Council has launched a series of walks based at Clunton and Coverdale, which are available from local tourist information centres for a suggested donation to the Shropshire Wildlife Trust of 20p.

Oxford to Cambridge for under £4, or London to Edinburgh for £13.50 - these are the best back-to-college fares of the academic year. They are the standard rates of the lift-share agency Freewheelers (0191-222 0094). Prospective passengers have to pay £10 to register initially, and drivers £5. For the first time in the UK, a lift-share scheme is being commercially supported (by Avis, Midland Bank, Vauxhall and the YHA), which should enhance its chances of success.

The new cut-price airline I linking Scotland and England, EasyJet (01582 445566), has begun services between Aberdeen and Luton. Tickets only from the airline.

Arnie the stallion lumbered forward, the towrope shot a line of spray and we set off down the Rochdale Canal

By Muthena Paul Alkazraji

♠ final word on safety before only began here in the 1970s lumbered forward, the towwe jolted away from the marina's edge, en route from last remaining clog factory. Hebden Bridge, along the Calder Valley, to Britain's last

remaining clog factory.
In 1887 the Rochdale Canal Company operated an express cargo service from Manchester to Sowerby Bridge: more than 30 miles and 92 locks in 36 hours, with the crew snatching six hours rest. But clog) line their shelves in now Arnie was setting the pace. The original boatmen, by reputation a rough-living, hard-drinking bunch, trans-ported coal, timber, wool and cotton along this, one of three trans-Pennine canals, throughout the Industrial Revolution. This afternoon the ularly arriving by the van load rudderman, Paul Jackson, and to shop here - into a stupefied his crew (wearing clogs and Victorian boatman's costume) contained themselves to the occasional drag on a roll-up.
We navigated an imposing lock at Mayroyd Mill, and

later scraped under a number of stone bridges that Mr Jackson told me had knocked distracted crew members into the water on a number of occasions. "Prior to Arnie, we had a Shire horse called Corkie," he smiled. "He fell in, too, and just lay there quite happily, eating weed." Later, a crew member lay back on the top of the boat

alongside the tow-path opposite Walkley Clogs - a multi-storey Victorian mill sitting grandly between the canal and the River Caldet. Clog soles have been produced continuously on this site since 1870, but the com-

we set off," said our guide after Frank Walkley bought Hor the half hour's horse- out the old business, and drawn narrowboat excursion began attaching the leather up the Rochdale Canal. uppers. Though popularly "Please don't go out on deck: imagined as obligatory workthere isn't one." Arnie, the er's uniform during the Indus-Ardenne stallion, dutifully trial Revolution, demand for the humble wooden sole was rope shot a line of spray from at its peak in the late 1940s as the water as it tightened, and practical all-round footwear. Today Walkley's is Britain's

> turning out up to 20,000 pairs each year. 40 per cent of their business goes to heavy industrial use, and the remainder to the fashion market, sold through mail-order and their mill shop. Rows of Gibsons, Derbies and Bars (the traditional Lancashire woman's suede and patent leather; knee-high and slip-on; brogued and with bells on. They cover the whole spectrum of colour, and are soled with kiln-dried beech wood. The choice is enough to send a New Model Army fan - regfreeze of indecision. Bradford's clog-sporting, post-punk, nomadic tribe provide Walkley's with a steady source of custom, and in return Walkley's look after their own. "We send along one of our master cloggers to set up a repair-service at the group's gigs," explained Sue Jones, joint owner of the business. "and we regularly get a tin of biscuits from the band mem-

bers at Christmas". In an open workshop beside their factory store, clogs are hand-crafted and repaired by cloggers in public view. One resourceful visitor with his feet on the tunnel had brought in their worn ous artists' studios and crafts-out Dr Martens for a clog people's workshops which roof and "legged" us out conversion. The mill building itself, no longer entirely given over to clog production, is now home to numerous other built to provide homes for its specialist craft and gift shops textile workers, can still be that are on the whole in keeping with the theme of Victoplete clog-making process rian industry. It includes sil-



En route to the Walkely clog factory

ing roast beef and Yorkshire pudding - what else.

Hebden Bridge itself, a 10 minute walk back along the canal, having developed into last century, has retained and renovated its architectural heritage. Its mills, walls clad in ivy, now house numerhave earnt it the nickname "St lves of the North". Much of the top and bottom housing, seen precipitously stacked along the steep hillsides.

Hebden Bridge's most

versmiths, spinners, furniture famous son, Sir Bernard Ingmakers and toy sellers. There ham, was educated at the is also a Calder Valley history local Grammar School. Mrs local Grammar School. Mrs museum and restaurant sell- Thatcher's chief press-secretary, a man not to be crossed by all accounts, apparently wears clogs and gets them from Walkley's. Before leavcanal, having developed into ing, I glanced through their a thriving textile town in the catalogue and discovered it was technically possible to order a blue, suede jackboot. "Now this style rather suits Sir cleaned of industrial dirt and Bernard" I could hear the assistant say.

> Hebden Bridge Tourist Information: 01422 843831 Calder Valley Cruising: 01422 845557 (cruises to the the clog factory start in April). Walkley Clogs: 01422 842061 - open every day except Christmas and Boxing days, adults £1, children free.

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No carbon dioxide, no problem.

At least that's the theory for natural gas as the fuel of the future. But are we ready for it? By Gavin Green

t was good last week to see Steven Norris, VW dealer turned transport minister. endorsing the natural gas powered bus which has just started to ply the streets of Bristol. Perhaps a cleaner bus can also attract a cleaner, more respectable clientele, and persuade Mr Norris - who, famously. doesn't much care for bus passengers - to use it.

Natural gas looks like being the fuel of our post-petrol transport future. It has the potential to be 100 times less polluting than current petrol/diesel vehicles and some car manufacturers - traditionally coy on the subject - are suggesting that gas is probably the

The environmental advantages of natural gas over unleaded petrol are manifold. It is less toxic when burnt by an internal combustion engine, winning on carbon monoxide emissions (about 20 per cent of petrol's); oxides of nitrogen (70 per cent); hydrocarbons (40 per cent) and sulphur dioxide, the main cause of acid (natural gas produces none, diesel is particularly appalling). Cities, which suffer most from exhaust toxins, are likely to be far better off. The world beyond should also be a better place: natural gas, when burnt, produces less carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main greenhouse-effect gas.

Further advantages are its ubiquity (the earth is richest in natural gas) and that a distribution and extraction industry is already in place. There are world economic advantages, too: Russia is the world's biggest producer, with something like 38 per cent of known natural gas reserves. And nothing would help international political and economic stability like an injection of hard currency

So why don't the motor and oil industries start changing their industries accordingly? After all,



For better or worse: the new gas-powered bus in Bristo

CNG (compressed natural gas) is is that despite the potential greeneasy. Many cars in many countries 300.000 in Italy, most taxis have already been converted.

Well, natural gas is not all scents and sensible theory. Its major environmental problem is what's called "methane slip". Methane, which typically makes up about 95 per cent of natural gas, is the most virulent greenhouse-effect gas of all. It's about 30 times worse than CO₂. Although burning it does the earth a favour, all current CNG vehicles let more methane escape through the combustion process than engineers would like. There is also methane loss into the atmosphere during gas extraction converting a current car to run on and refuelling the car. The upshot

house benefit, the result may be a penalty of simply replacing CO₂ with methane, something worse. CNG is also a less energy-

dense fuel, which means you need more to do a given mileage. One of the attractions of petrol is that so little of it gets you so far. Per volume, petrol has about three times more energy than CNG. Plus the CNG tank - which is storing gas under high pressure needs to be much heavier. A typical CNG fuel tank for a car weighs about 70kg - the equivalent of carrying an extra man's

Probably Britain's most outspoken champion of CNG is Jim

Randle, former chief engineer of board generator powering a bank Jaguar and now Professor of Automotive Engineering at Birmingham University. Professor Randle believes CNG will start to achieve "real popularity" for private cars in Britain in about 10

The major environmental benefits will come when specially designed engines, better suited to CNG, are available. Professor Randle predicts that with technological advances by the year 2010, the best engine will be a gas turbine, which he believes would be 100 times more ecologically friendly than today's catalytic equipped petrol car. The turbine would, in effect, act as an on-

Photograph: Christopher Jones of batteries supplying electricity to four little electric engines (one in each wheel). It sounds bulky, but the total weight and size of mechanicals would be no greater than the engine and transmission of today's cars.

Professor Randle and quite a few top car company engineers reckon this could be the state of the art production car in about 20

Beyond that? Hydrogen, say most experts, is the fuel of our long-term transport future (no pollution and it comes from water). Until then, as Bristol is beginning to find out, natural gas

Mercedes Benz E-class

best cars in the world. best cars in the most They produce the most solid thoroughly engineered, solid and safe cars which are among the world's most desirable. It's just such a shame the new

ones are so ugly.
Sure, there have been some beauties, such as the latest SL sports car, and most old Mercedes sports models. The recently superseded E-class, Mercedes' most popular model, is a timeless design. looking homogenous from any angle. The latest S-class, although beautifully wrought and untiringly comfortable, looks like a felled shed with its slab sides and ungainly height. But worse of all is the new

E-class. It is a real bits-andpieces design with three dif-ferent philosophies thrown together: four little head-lamps and fetchingly sculpted front end at odds with the traalongside; unappealing flat sides contrasting with the rounded front and a generic Japanese tail, with lamps that look like they are off last year's Toyota.

Fortunately, it drives well: Specifications strong and solid, unfailingly stable even in cross winds and heavy rain. There is noticeable improvement in steering feel (the old E's helm always felt a little dead), in the smoothness of the automatic transmission's shift, and in handling. The basic E200 version is surprisingly sprightly. thanks to engine improvements. There's also substantially more rear room.

On the downside, the new car doesn't feel quite as well made. Its switchgear, for the old one handles and rides instance, is not as chunky. being mostly the same sort of hollow plastic that you get with Ford, Vauxhall or Rover.

Some of the olde-worlde touches about the old E are also missing - such as the hinged arm rest for the front seats. Now you rest your elbows on the padded centre console, as with every other



car. These changes are all to do with saving money. Old Benzes were built to an engineering optimum, and priced accordingly. Mercedes knows that is not the way of the Japanese and Americans, or now of its European rivals. No doubt, in terms of crash testing, pollution controls, reliability, panel fit and so on, the new E beats the old one. However, you don't get that feeling of being in something truly special, a marked cur ahove the rest, as you did with the old E. Instead, the midditional rectangular grille size Mercedes is now merely a very good car, probably the best in its class. It is impressive on the one hand, but disappointing on the other. Gavin Green

Mercedes-Benz E200 Elegance auto £27,402. 1998cc, four cylinder engine 136bhp, top speed 128mph, 0-60mph 12

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well, and is the best made car in the class, after the Mercedes Cramped rear, though. Rover 827 SI £23,495 Quicker, better equipped than the Benz. but nothing like the overall

Saab 9000CDE 2.0i £22,645 Roomy, individualistic, comfortable, but not as solid as the Benz.

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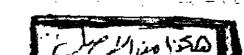
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Don't panic: the owner-occupiers are coming

January has become an active month for sales. And this year there's a new breed of young buyer on the move. By Anne Spackman



Andrew Mancais (pictured with his girlfriend Bridget Scott), the director of Winkworth's office in the West End of London, will save £300 per month when he buys a similar flat to the one he is renting

may be because of central heating, it may be because Christmas is the only time when busy families can sit down and take decisions, but whatever the reason, January is no longer the ugly sister of the property year. For the fourth year in succession, estate agents have opened their doors to a steady stream of enquiries from potential buyers and sellers. But this year there are two significant changes. First, the January activity follows on from an already improved November and December - for some agents their busiest months of 1995. Second, the seasonal batch of sales by divorcees is being added to by a num-

ber of first-time buyers. It seems that with rents going up and interest rates going down, the property pendulum is finally swinging towards owner occupation for the generation in their twenties. Winkworth, the London chain with 32 branches across the capital, is reporting interest from first-time buyers in one-bedroom and even studio flats, which for the past five years have been almost unsellable.

Andrew Mancais, the 28-year-old director of Winkworth's West End office, is himself buying for the first time this month. He and his girlfriend are purchasing a flat the same size and in the same square in Baron's Court where they are currently renting. Taking his mortgage and all monthly payments into account he will be at least £300 a month better off. "Interest rates are coming

down and the cost of renting is going up by between five and seven per cent a year," he said. "I think prices are steady and there are now so many good mortgage deals around that it is a good time to buy." His office has just had its busiest ever November and December.

Winkworth's Kennington branch has also had its busiest December for years. Andrew Cooper, who works there, has himself decided to join the ranks of firsttimers. There is a new generation of buyers coming through, like me," he said. "With interest rates so reasonable the time seems right to look around."

Two women featured on these pages last year as committed to renting have also decided to join the ranks of New Year first-time buyers. In a complete

they found they could live far better as last year was new flats, where average owner-occupiers than as tenants. They can no longer afford to rent.

The first-timers are emerging more strongly in London than in other cities, where rents have yet to rise as a result of increased demand. But signs of life are apparent in the property market everywhere.

The latest quarterly report from the Land Registry, based on the vast major-ity of house sales in England and Wales, confirms building society reports that house prices began to rise during the summer of 1995. The Land Registry figures include transactions without mortgages, which are now thought to account for almost one in five sales.

reversal of the traditional situation, in value between July and September of the more expensive houses taking the

prices fell 0.5 per cent. For terraces, semi-detached and detached homes, prices rose by between two and four per cent. A regional breakdown of the figures proves the case that the quality market is performing best. Detached and semi-detached houses in Greater London have seen the greatest price increases. Prices for semi-detached and terraced houses in most other regions rose fractionally, while flat prices fell slightly in the North West, Yorkshire and Humberside, the West and East Midlands, the South West and the

South East. This year looks set to continue the trend for good houses to outperform the The only category of property to fall mass market, with the agents who sell

> [lizabeth White is selling her house Loverlooking the Waveney on the Norfolk border through Bidwells' Norwich office. She is planning to move nearer to one of her children, following the death of her husband. Mrs White said: "I'm fortunate to have a house in a lovely setting. We have access to the Broads and I take the view that keen boat people would want to get settled in before summer. The agents seemed to feel that if a house is going to sell, it will sell at any time of year. The only time when I would not put a house on the market is in August. Otherwise

most calls. Patrick Ramsay of Knight Frank (as the 100-year-old institution of Knight Frank & Rutley is now known) believes the property market has shifted a few months forward. He said: "From the first of January until the end of May has been the best selling season for the past three or four years. Once people have got their children back to school they roll up their sleeves and get on with it. But there is still the benefit of the seasons from the point of view of the garden looking its best," he added, "There will always be an element of houses which are best launched between April and May."

Edward Waterson, who runs Carter Jonas's York office, has seen an encouraging number of new purchasers since the New Year. "We did an analysis of why people were buying, and relocation was the number one reason" he said. "People moving jobs often like to spend Christmas in their old home. It's a big change from my father's day, when between Christmas and Easter.

His colleague in Cambridge, Richard Hatch, is recommending that would-be sellers of quality country houses put their properties up for sale now, rather than wait for the spring. 'They don't need to look their best in order to sell well because there is such a shortage of supply," he said, "but it is a bonus to have pictures of how it looks in the summer."

Househunter Hartest, Suffolk



Ingrown-ups, Converted from a flour-grinding mill by an antiques dealer, it is a spacious, predominantly open-plan home with quality fittings which would be unlikely to suit a family with young children. The property sits in gardens with stepped ornamental pools at the end of a private drive in this smart village about eight miles south of Bury St Edmunds. It has a sitting-room, library area, dining-room, kitchen/breakfası room, galleried study, two and a half bedrooms and two bathrooms, Bedford Country Property Agents (01284 769999) is asking for offers in the region of £195,000.

For what it's worth

mployees of the newly Lmerged Scottish Courage group relocating to Edinburgh from the south-east of England are using the internet to search for new homes. Information rooms have been set up in Staines and Reading by The Property Wave, which publishes property information on the Internet. People can access property details with colour photographs as well as information on specific neighbourhoods, schools and arts events. Gordon Kerr of Morton Fraser Relocation said the initial response to the service was terrific and he expected it to become a standard part of the relocation process. Property details, however, had not turned out to be as crucial as statistics on the weather - the subject that most worried employees moving

Who's moving

The home of Brigadier Anthony Wingfield, the distinguished Second World War soldier and former racing manager to the Queen, is to be sold at auction, following his death last month. Brigadier Wingfield, who was awarded the MC and a DSO, retired to Ireland for a life of horses and farming. His home, Brownstown Park, is in prime hunting country 26 miles from Dublin. The Georgian house with five main bedrooms, 26 acres and 10 horse boxes is being auctioned by Hamilton Osborne King on 27 February with a guide price of Ir£380,000 (£357,000).

Why sell now? Three owners give their views

Dichard and Margaret Garvin are putting Atheir four-bedroom house overlooking the sea in Thurlestone, Devon, on the market with Marchand Petit in Kingsbridge this month. They want a plot inland where they can build their own home. Mr Garvin said: "I don't think the timing of a sale makes much difference any more, if people are serious about moving they will do it when they have the money and the inclination, rather than wait until the daffodils come out. It seems to me there are two housing markets. At the low end, people are in a lot of trouble. I hope we are in the one that is moving.

Nillian Isaacs is selling a three-bedroom Uhouse with land in Surrey and buying in London, Mrs Isaacs said: "I think the time of vear is irrelevant. I'm a banker and I'm keen to beat any bonus rush that might come in the spring. The biggest problem is that there aren't many houses to view. If the right thing comes up you have to move fast. It seems to me that property in central London is selling quickly and near the asking price."

it's a question of when you need to move."

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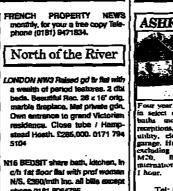
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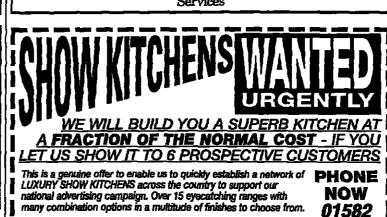
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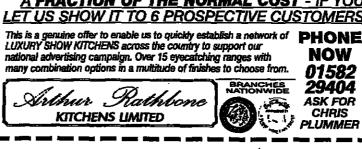






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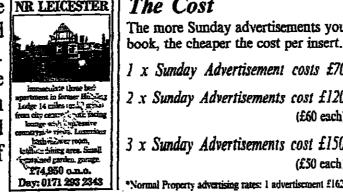
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The Equitable Life

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hat is one to make of cess of the National the moral issues for a moment, and forget the debate about what impact it is having on the British economy, numerical logic, which shows there dramatic though that is. What does the remarkable response to last weekend's roll-over jackpot tell us about the British public's atti-

tude to money? What it tells us is surely not entirely flattering. As many commentators have correctly pointed out, the trouble with the Lottery is that, even by the undemanding standards of gambling, it is a very bad way to wager money.

The odds on winning the jackpot (at nearly 14 million to one) are spectacularly poor.

You can do much better even on the pools, and better still by putting your money into boring old Premium Bonds, which not only give you better odds of a significant prize (the top prize is £1m), but also have the added advantage that you do not have to surrender your stake each week.

As our sister paper, the Inde-pendent on Sunday, reported last week, something like 50,000 individuals now have the maximum allowable holding of £20,000 in Premium Bonds.

I can vouch for the fact that they the remarkable suc- include some very savvy people. Sir Patrick Sergeant, who founded the Lottery? Leave aside phenomenally successful magazine business, Euromoney, is one of them, and there are many more.

And yet, despite the elementary are much better ways to gamble with your money, the Lottery contiques to absorb the attentions of the public on a scale that no single other form of gambling has ever managed to do in this country. According to brokers Kleinwort Benson, the impact of the Lottery has been such that the proportion of national income that Britain now spends on gambling and betting has jumped by something like 50 per cent in little over a year.

It is now back to the peak level it achieved in the very early 1970s. (The 1960s were the last great heyday of popular gambling in this country).

Nor is there any mystery about what has caused the success of the Lottery. The lure of huge jackpots is undoubtedly the factor that has made the most difference. The columnist Christopher Fildes pointed out acutely the other day that this should come as no surprise to anyone.



JONATHAN DAVIS INVESTMENTS

Smith, whose own careful analysis of the subject led him to conclude that it was the size of the maximum payout, not the chance of winning, that was the critical factor in the popularity of any lottery. The bigger the top prize, the keener everyone will be to play - a phenomenon that last week's events have duly confirmed.

And this despite the fact - which is obvious enough when you think about it - that the more popular the lottery is, the worse your odds of winning any given prize become. The bigger the prize, in other words, the more blind to the odds most punters become.

Take this phenomenon to an The phenomenon was accu- economist, and he will tell you that rately predicted more than 200 as individuals our risk-reward promoney into equities rather than years ago by the economist Adam file is very heavily skewed towards

the single big pay-off. Given the choice between gambling to win £1m today and aiming for 10 separate wins of £150,000 each at better odds, we tend to prefer to go for the former. How far this is a conscious and irrational decision -"I know the odds, but I don't care" and how far it is simply ignorance
"I don't know what the odds are,

but now that you point it out, I see what you mean" - is a matter of conjecture. But it is hard not to see the phenomenon as a symptom of a wider problem that people in Britain

have with the way they approach

money issues. Most savings and investment decisions are, at bottom, decisions that involve assessing odds, and they need to be approached in the same way as any other decision of

etting the blood rush to your head, or salivating about the size of a potential prize, is not the way to achieve the best results over

With some notable exceptions. such as wartime, or severe economic crises such as the one we suffered in the mid-1970s, the odds for those with long-term funds to invest clearly favour putting the keeping them in the bank or build-

ing society. The cumulative difference in returns over a period of years, given the magic of compound interest, is potentially dramatic (although the sudden flurry of building society mergers and flotations, with their windfall payouts, has done something to redress the balance in the last year

Nor do you have to be very good at picking stocks to obtain the extra performance from investing

in couities. Any fund that mirrors the performance of the market as a whole, provided it has a diversified portfolio and does not eat up all your gains in charges, will capture most of the potential gain from being in shares rather than having your money in a savings account.

The risk is greater, of course, but more than compensated for by the additional return.

And yet, when it comes to picking shares, many investors spend a great deal of time hunting for the potential market-beater that will knock spots off most ordinary shares with a quick gain of 100 per cent or 200 per cent.

It may be more fun that way, but it is not a very rational thing to do. But then the Lottery experience shows that rationality is not always the first thing that comes to mind when money is at stake.

The winners and losers in Woolwich's bonanza

Speculators shut out by the retrospective cut-off date are likely to be the most aggrieved. By Nic Cicutti

fter months of suspense, Woolwich Building Society finally confirmed the redictions of every pundit in the land. It announced this week that it plans to float the society on the Stock Exchange, ensuring a shares windfall worth up to £1,000 for some 3.5 million Woolwich borrowers and savers.

The hand-outs are expected to take place in the autumn of next year. Before then, members will have the chance to vote on whether they want Woolwich to abandon its mutual status. In theory, the vote could still go against the deal.

But the experience of previous flotations and takeovers suggests that the vast majority of members are prepared to sacrifice the indeterminate benefits of mutuality for cash, or shares, in hand.

Details of the hand-out are not yet known, beyond a statement by Woolwich that it plans to follow previous practice adopted by other

societies seeking bank status. In effect, this means the distribution will be by means of a minimum shares distribution, possibly worth about £500, plus extra shares based on the amount of savings in person's account. As always, there will be winners and losers.

Those who stand to gain are the society's 600,000 mortgage borrowers, plus holders of Share. Prime Gold, Premier 90, Tessa, Premium Investment, Fixed Rate Thursday morning, when the Bonds, Cashbase and Sharesave accounts.

Other saving schemes, including but not exclusively various Super 60 and Super 90 accounts, are among the beneficiaries. Wool-

they are eligible if they call a spe-cial hotline - 0345-022033. Calls will be charged at local rates.

The most obvious losers are the 400,000-plus savers with Woolwich current accounts. They are not deemed to be members, as are the 80,000 investors with a Woolwich unit trust or PEP product, those who have taken out a general insurance policy or with some types of pension top-up products.

The losers likely to generate the most heat will be those who rushed to open a share account with Woolwich between 31 December and announcement was made.

"Carpetbaggers", as they were dubbed by Woolwich this week. have in effect been disenfranchised by the society's decision to set a retrospective cut-off date of 31 Decewich savers will be told whether mber to have opened an account. gatekeepers.

Woolwich justifies its action by pointing out that in the final week before its announcement, the level of new account openings rocketed 20-fold compared with normal. About 30,000 new savers lost out in the speculative surge and they will be angry at the way the door was suddenly shut in their face. They won't get much sympathy from other Woolwich members, or

most other people, though. This applies particularly to those predators hoping to move on to the next building society targets.
Alliance & Leicester is the next

likely society to de-manualise but it has already raised its minimum stake for membership to £5,000 excepting investors in an A&L Tessa account, who need only to come up with the £1,000 minimum in order to sneak past the society's

Nationwide is a far longer-term prospect, if you believe its own propaganda about commitment to mutuality. If not, now is the time

After that, enigma reigns. Other building societies are regarded by most analysts as too small to float on their own. But that still raises the possibility of mergers or takeovers followed by flotations. Plus, a number of big financial institutions are known to be in the market for good, medium-sized building societies.

For those prepared to take a punt on such a possibility, the most likely targets are Bradford & Bingley, Britannia, Bristol & West. Birmingham Midshires and Portman. Even so, we are now moving away from the world of dead certs and into the realms of speculation in every sense. Happy hunting.

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The fund managers who just keep on tracking

They're cheap, simple to understand and are all the rage. But are tracker funds the best way to manage a portfolio? By Alison Eadie

ndex tracker funds are index - weight and perfor- largest stock market and mance of an index, so we charges and performance as good as, if not are proving highly seductive to investors.

The concept, pioneered in Management, sounds deceptively simple. Instead of trying to outperform a stock market index, a tracker fund is designed to match it through buying most or all of the correct sector spread to the constituent companies in their correct weightings.

But just as there are many methods of active fund management, quantitative analysts who set up and monitor tracker funds have different systems.

James Capel Quantitative Techniques in Edinburgh advises 30 tracker funds, including seven unit trusts, for its parent com-pany HSBC. The seven range from the flagship UK Index Fund, which tracks the FT All-Share index, to the exotic Tiger Index Fund, which tracks an index of Capel's own design representing the markets of Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea, the Philippines and Indonesia.

Adrian Tupper, a senior quantitative analyst at Capel, explains that, far from being passive, tracker fund investment offers a choice of what stocks to hold and how to monitor and rebalance them to is whether to replicate an index in full or in part. cation in five of its tracker per cent is sold. funds as it works out cheaper, administratively simpler and just as effective in performance terms.

all the rage. Low mance," Mr Tupper says. To put as much of the mance as good as, if not better than, many actively mance as food as, if not better than, many fund as possible, larger actively managed funds stocks are replicated in full and smaller stocks sampled. The UK Index Fund holds 350 stocks, including the UK by HSBC Asset the largest 200, which account for close to 90 per cent of the value of the All-Share index. The 150 smaller companies are cho-

sen to ensure the fund has in the larger Asian markets with 40 or 50 stocks to match the index. choose from, sector sam-Pharmaceutical compapling is mathematically difficult, Mr Tupper points nies tend to be big, so buying the top 200 companies out. Countries take the would almost arrive at the place of sectors, but the correct pharmaceutical exercise of rebalancing to weighting. However, buildmake sure each market stays at 12.5 per cent of the and

fund is the same.

Liquidity can pose prob-

only adds stock that can be

can be suspended. The solu-

beauty of a sampled index."

he maintains. A fully repli-

cated tracker fund would

Capel's seven-year expe-

rience of developing a data-

base of international equi-

ties, indices and currencies

gives it the confidence to

rely on its own indexation

software. It believes its par-

tial replication technique is

the best, but there are other

common are optimisation

and stratified sampling. Capel dismisses optimi-

be stuck

ing companies tend to be small, so the fund would need to top up among smaller building stocks to get the right sector fit. In the Tiger index is calculated theory companies should and managed by Capel, it move in line with their sector, so if sector allocation is bought and sold easily by right the fund should track foreign investors. But Mr the index. "Once you get away from Far East liquid stocks can fall

full replication, you are tak- out of favour and spend six ing a risk," admits Mr Tup- months barely trading or per. But he adds that buying all 900 stocks in the All-Share would involve higher dealing and custodial charges, as custodians charge for every single communication on dividends, rights issues, annual shareholder meetings and so forth.

The Tiger Fund holds 165 stocks out of a possible 270, weighted equally between the eight markets ensure they stay in line with covered. It is rebalanced the index. The first choice monthly, so if Hong Kong has risen to account for 13 per cent of the index after methods. The two most HSBC opts for partial repli- a month, the additional 0.5

The index is a slight oddity, Mr Tupper admits. sation as it is based on Most Asia Pacific funds are assumptions of history heavily weighted towards repeating itself. "We don't Two things move an Hong Kong, the region's know the future perfor-

have smaller allocations for won't use past perforthe smaller markets. The mance," Mr Tupper says. equal country weighting of Stratified sampling is also the Tiger Fund means that dismissed as "too unsciensmaller markets such as tific", as it does not allow for Taiwan and South Korea the smaller companies effect have greater influence than and the choice of stocks is to their market capitalisation a large extent arbitrary. would dictate.

Setting up a tracker fund With only around 15 is only the beginning. There stocks to choose from in the must be careful monitoring Philippines, sector samof additions and deletions pling is not possible. Even to the index, takeovers, rights, scrip issues and other corporate events that can potentially put tracking off course. The recent takeover of

Norweb by North West Water gave shareholders four choices: all cash; cash and shares; cash, shares National Grid exchangeable bonds; or cash and National Grid lems to tracker funds. As bonds. Capel's job in such cases is to advise fund managers what action to take.

Some indices are harder to track than others. "The more money in the fund the Tupper admits that in the easier the index is to track as you can buy more stocks," Mr Tupper says. UK Index has £167m under management against Tiger's tion is to pick the next stock £31.7m. Tiger is also on the list. "This is the tougher because it follows eight separate markets.

The arguments for tracker

as against actively managed funds hinge on cost and performance. Tracker funds have lower dealing and management costs and so can sell to the retail market for less. In the past three years they have also done as well as if not better than almost threequarters of UK active fund managers that failed to beat the All-Share index. The scope for active fund managers to add value is greater in less mature markets like ing markets. So the Tiger Fund has more to prove than the UK Index Fund.



track: Tracker funds bave costs than actively



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Barclays Bank is launching new fixed-rate savings bonds earning 5.75 per cent gross for a year and 6.25 per cent for three years on a minimum





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money

The early investor catches the best Tessa

As investors ponder where to put large lump sums, some new offers have already sold out. Clifford German finds out what three holders plan to do with the proceeds

Tessas have been withdrawn. TSB sold out its initial offer of 7.64 per cent fixed for five years to investors who reinvested the full £9,000 worth of maturing Tessa within 48 hours, although anyone with a Tessa maturing in the next three months who has reserved the new rate will be accepted. Everyone else is being offered 7.22 per cent. Britannia Building Society sold out its offer of 7.65 per cent and replaced it with a 7.25 per cent rate, while National Counties has cut its rate for reinvesting a full Tessa to 7.2 per cent.
If other top offers, such as Northern

Rock, sell out quickly many investors who decided to take advantage of the permitted six-month delay before reinvesting and those whose Tessas do not mature until the summer may have missed the boat as far as the best fixedrate offers are concerned.

Most attract heavy penalties if investors want to switch to a new erate element of risk if interest rates rise accounts. David also made up his mind

available, however, with Northern Rock offering 8 per cent to start with and Cheltenham & Gloucester 7.75 per cent. But these rates could go lower still if base rates fall as expected.

enry Toulouse, a retired auditor from Monmouth, and his wife, Diana. both have Tessas with the Yorkshire Building Society that mature in February and April. Both considered rolling their £9,000 capital into a new Tessa but decided against it on the grounds that interest rates no longer look as attractive as they did five years ago, and at their age they did not necessarily want to tie their money up again for five years to obtain the tax benefits.

After consulting their financial adviser, Gerald Davies of Kymin Financial Services, they have decided each to invest in a corporate bond PEP with Commercial Union.

They recognise that there is a mod-

ome of the best new fixed-rate provider. Variable-rate offers are still and not too much chance of capital gains. But it gives them a current yield of 7.54 per cent net of tax. They intend to let the interest roll up but they know they can take interest or capital at any time without forfeiting the tax-free benefits.

They will invest the maximum permitted £6,000 each in the bond PEP and the balance of the maturing Tessa plus the interest will initially go into a threemonth notice account with the building society, and into a Schroder Pacific Growth unit trust. Eventually, the money in the building society might well find its way into a PEP.

Navid Ashman, 45, a local government worker, has decided to use the accumulated interest on his maturing £9,000 Tessa with Britannia Building Society to buy a personal computer for his son, Daniel, nine, who will be able to play games as well as learn new skills on it. while Dad will use it to do the family

maturing Tessa into a new issue, but it turned out not to be quite as straightforward as he expected.

Britannia wrote to him three weeks before Christmas telling him his options, but he decided to look around at the opposition before deciding where to reinvest. By the time he had come to a decision Britannia's own fixed-rate offer of 7.65 per cent was sold out. He looked at the TSB but its limited issue of 7.64 per cent fixed was also exhausted, so he has decided to leap aboard the bandwagon at Northern Rock and take its fixed-rate offer of 7.64 per cent. He knows he could have waited longer to see if a better offer appears but the prospect of keeping his cash in an ordinary account paying maybe 4 per cent net of tax for up to six months did not

imposes the most swingeing penalties – 180 days' loss of interest plus a fee of £30 if he changes his mind and and an arrangement. What is he doing with his appeal to him. £30 if he changes his mind and wants to maturing Tessa money? He isn't saying.

early on to roll over the capital on his move the money within the next five be tempted. The Tessa is not his only investment asset, so he can afford to be locked in for the duration.

hichele Chalk of Hillingdon plans to Viroll over her £9,000 Tessa with Nationwide Building Society as soon as it matures next month. She has been a loyal investor with the society for 30 years and does not even plan to look at competitive offers from rival societies. The maturing interest is also going to be reinvested, in a Bonus 60 account with Nationwide, paying 4 per cent.

No, she did not even consider reinvesting it in anything more adventurous and risky like a PEP Her husband, John, is an insurance broker, and he has those kinds of things, she says dismissively. They keep their finances separately He is well aware that Northern Rock and she prefers the certainty of a build-

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The test of the Tessa: Henry Toulouse (top) is abandon Tessas in favour of a Commercial Union corporate bond Pep. David Ashman (above, with his wife Barbara) is rolling his Tessa over into one with Northern Rock

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FEAR OF FINANCE Clifford German



opinion polls are to be the premi-believed the under-fifties tax relief. accept that the state cannot cope and some form of primight even make it compulsory along with pension

open up. The likes of Bupa, PPP and HSA, and a handful of insurers such as Norwich Union and the traditional provident societies have only dabbled in the market. Insurance compato advertise their products and their financial skills to an investment income to help hold down premiums.

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ost of Britain's old double again at the very top age band. Over-sixties are also only eligible for the ical treatment should be an private medical insurance absolute right, but if the cover, which at least makes the premiums eligible for

The core of the plan is a and will not continue to private medical insurance scheme that pays for hospivate medical insurance is tal in-patient and day care inevitable. Indeed an incom- charges and fees, plus outing Labour government patient treatment and approved nursing at home. It is not offering any treatment unavailable on the If they are right, a whole NHS and, like its rivals, it is new sector is poised to appealing to worries about waiting lists and fears about the future withdrawal of services.

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Individual members can efit packages designed to draw up to £200 a year, and meet the most likely needs families £500 a year, but there is an excess charge of costs as individuals progress £25 and members are limthrough life, or at least from ited to one claim each per

The claims limit will to 80 per cent of compara- automatically be renewed ble charges from existing each year and there will be insurers for under-thirties, a no-claims bonus to reward although by age 60 they are those who do not claim. comparable, Many current policies according to Duncan Hop- exclude cover for pre-existper, L&G Lifetime's man- ing conditions but if a polaging director. They start at icy-holder has not sought or £10 a month for a single person. By 40 they are around treatment for two years £17 for singles, but they in L&G will consider them eli-

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Il Postino (above) Michael Radford's tale of poetry | The Glass Menagerie (above) Knock-out

THEATRE

If Postino (above) Michael Radford's tale of poetry and love in 1950s Italy earned the biggest ever release of any subtitled film, and deservedly so. Living in Oblivion Affectionate yet scathing insight into independent film-making. Director within-line film Steve Buscemi seems forever on the verge production; full of visual flair and being film steve Buscemi seems forever on the verge production; full of visual flair and being film steve Buscemi seems forever on the verge production; full of visual flair and being film steve Buscemi seems forever on the verge production; full of visual flair and being film supple directs a graphing of epilepsy, but the excellent James Le Gros Is memorable as a preening pairmedonna.

Seven Just as the serial-killer genre seemed to be growing blunt, in sweeps David Flucher to sharpen it up. Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt are the cops pursuing a Seven Deadly Sins-Inspired killer. A film which leaves a lasting imprint.

David Benedict



EXHIBITIONS

William Nicholson (above) A compelling show of seclusive paintings. Far from dated, it re-asserts Nicholson's position as one of the finest painters rusnosors poston esone or the mast painters of the 20th century. Kettle's Yend, Cambridge Emil Wolde This unmissable exhibition charts his career from early. Biblical works, through the suffilm seasones, to work produced while hiding from the Nazis. Whitechapel, London El-Art & Power Last chance to catch this well-constant show from the mast last chance to catch this well-constant show from the mast last the presented show focusing on the impact of the cultural amoganica of the three key totalitation lations of the 1930s. Featuring art from Germany,

Many and Russia. Hayward Gallery, London SEL:



Chair Raekwon Tabove) The Wu Tang Clair's Raekwon is joined by buddy Ghost Face Killer for this debut British date. Raekwon's cuisine Only Built For Cuban Line was a formidable album last year. Subterania, London W10, 18 Jan Tindersticks/Bathy Bird Booze, melancholy and

thoughtfully maverick times are the business of these well pared bands, part of the NME Brats. Tour. Astoria, London W1, 19 Jan Marc Almond Benefit gig for limity Hospics, Marc. Almond and David McAlmont bring the glaim while Differd and Tilbrook supply classic pop rock.

Broton Fridge, London SW9, 18 Jan

London_

Oxford

ends 20 Apr., free.

AUCTIONS

Portsmouth Preserved transport



CLASSICAL

IDSWICH
The Better Stow Spectacular ice show for all ages. The Regent St Helens Street (U1473-25(480) Ends today, phone for details.

bruts, equipment and holidays. Earl's Cour Exhibition Centre Warnink Road SW5 (017)-

375 8141) - Sent's Ct. Sar 10am-7pm, Sun 10am-5pm, £8.50, comes £6.50, after 4pm £5.50.

London Book Fair Wide range of rate, and-

quarian and secondhend books, maps, engraved and decorative prints. Holel Russell Square WC1 (0171-837 6478)

Russell Square WC1 (0171-837 6478)

Russell Sq. Sun Ipm-7pm, 15 Jun, 10 Jun, 1

using remuss and appropriate remained Exhibition marking the anniversary of the first meeting of the UN General Assembly in 1946. Methodist Central Hall Storey's Gate SWI 10171-222 8010) 49 Westmin-ster/St James Park. Today & Sun 10cm-

Change State Circus Mixture of traditional

Ganesia Sang Geres Synthier of manufactural and innovative physical theatre.
Resembrace Challe Furm Road NW1 (0171-482 7518) Tue-Fri Spin. Sat 2.50pm & Spin. Sun 2.30pm & 5.50pm (no perf 15 Jun.), ends 21 Jun. 68-612-50, comes

Carque Da Schell: Salfanbenco Insurvativo ente Crises to Solet Astronomero Innovarice and canned weaving dance, acrobatics and cannedy. Rayal Albert Hall Kensington Gore SWT (UTT-580 8212) & High Street Kensington, Today 2.30ym & 7.45pm, Sun 7.45pm, £27.£35.

eres Frem Islamic Immens Sheila

sort Depail Open Day Twelve

Paine's exploration of Asian testiles.
Pitt Rivers Muscon South Parks Road
(01865-270927) Mon-Sat Ipm-4-30pm.

Preserved Transport Depart Preserved Transport Depart Broad Street (01705-256602) Sun 11am, free,

Bishops Shortland: Graphic and artists' matern-

Bishops Shriftant: Graphic and arrises materials, transfer printing equipment, worksta-tions, desks. drawing boards, partitioning, chairs, pens, pencils. Wednesday (10am). Hawkery King [spelling ok], Unit 2, Stort Val-ley Industrial Park, Stansted Road (0181-343).

Similarian 400 lots of toys, dolls, trains, a big collection of borsed and unboxed diseast model vehicles, books, annuals, postcards Ratingham Walking, climbing, mountaineer-

Refinglem: Walking climbing, monitameering, sking and camping equipment and the stock of a gulf's range's shop, next Saturday (11am). Neales, 192 Mansfield Road (0115-962-414).

Mandoster: Mirod sale including 15,000 pairs of Lidies bracks, kitcherware, household and fancy goods and novelties, Tuesday (12 noun). Area Anothons, 11 Blockfriars Road.

moun). Area Anchons, IT Blackfrans Road. Salford (0161-854 \$246). Bankery, Antique and later furniture and col-lectors' items. Wednesday (10am). Dreweatt Neate Holloways, 49 Parsons Street (01295-253/07). Bradford: Kitchen, bathroom and bedroom

streets: Richer, designous and beautons showtoom displays and accessories, Wednesday (10.30am) at Windsor Plumbing and Electrical, Preston Street, Thornton Road, Wallort Singleton Stewart Newiss (01423-64311).

Defines, Hampshire: Art and antiques, contents

Odham, Hampdine Art and antiques, contents of several local residences, Wednesday (2pm) at the North Warnborough Village Hall. Odiham Auction Sales (01252-84410). By: Bathroom sintes and plumbing stocks including shower units, Visiorian bath and taps, sanitary ware, invalid bath, lead flashing, hand lools, Tuesday (11/30am) at Fergusons Plumbers Fittings, Newton Trading Estate, 45 McCalls Avenue (J.A.Catheart 1)/41-248 (979).

hydram, Rufolke Book and collectors sale, Trunsday-Friday (10.30am daily), G.A.Key, off Palmers Lanc (01.563-733)95). Antiques Trade Gazetie (0171-930 4957), Government Auction News (0171-353 7300, information fusione (1891-887700).

1) ans-7pm, free. United Nations 50th Ammersary & Pilm Sand

Die tote Stadif, Erich Korngold's fuscious Twenties opera, is a hit on disc but still awaits a five UK performance. Kensington Symptony Orchestra and singers step in where the opera compa-nies missed out. QEH, London SEI, Sun Sergei Leitenius (above) sings Rachmaninov -a powerful Bussian combination of fine barrione and emotional song, with Graham Johnson as plants. Wignore Hall, London W1, lodey City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra meets up with guest conductor Mark Eder in a programme of Tippett's Triple Concerto, and Hoist's Planets, Birmingham Symphony Hall, tonlight



DANCE

The slightly disappointing Corazon Planning (above) continue at Sadler's Wells with the life. crous Noche de Santiago and a virtues que Lo Mas Hondo. Sadler's Wells, London RCI. English National Ballet, free at last ford Reg. Stevenson's tawdry Nutcracker, now districts Raisa Struchkova's Swan Lake. Royal Testing.

Raisa Structura, SEI, today Hall, London, SEI, today Those who favour a tragic ending mat (See 1) Those who favour a tragic ending mat (See 1) see Syme Guillem in the Royal Ballet's Smith Life on Wednesday, Guillem, last seen in Jac. 8622 series Evidentia, gels a chance in depris as as Odette/Odile Royal Opera House, London Mary

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arts and entertainment listings

FILM

WEST END

 also outside Landon • ACE VENTURA: WHEN NATURE CILLS (PG) The per detective returns. Trocaders MGM 12.10, 1.10, 2.30, 3.30, 5.00, 6.00, 7.25, 9.35; Watter West End 12.05, 2.15, 4.30, 6.50, 9.00, 13.00.55 Sept. 11.10 (Sat-Sun)

ALL MEN ARE MORTAL (15) Unconventional law

ALL BUT HER HOLD HALL (13) OCCUPRENTIONS IN SCOTY, METHER WEST EARL SAL SUM 8.30 ● THE MEDICAL PRESIDENT (15) Romantic cornedy, Empire Leicener, Spater (100, 3.25 6.00, 8.35, 11.20 (Sat); Trucadero MCM (12.50, 3.15, 6.10, 9.10. (2midingh) (Sat); Plaza (1.00, 3.25, 6.00, 8.35, 11.20 (Sat) PAGES 1310 152-153 (Substitution of AS Byatt's novel. Proceedings MGM 8.15; The Mannera 3.30; 6.30; 8.45 PROLIGITA (PG) True story of the ill-fated 1970 mission. Plant 12noon, 2.45, 5.30; 8.15.

● BRSE (U) A pig and his attempts to avoid landing up as a Sunday roast. Empire Leaces are Square 1.15, 4.20, 6.30, 8.45, 11.20 (Sat); Tracadate MGM (2.30, 2.45, 5.00, 7.10, 9.20; Plaza 1215, 225, 435, 645, 900, 1130 (Sat ● IN THE SLEAN MEMORIES (15) A modely col-lection of actors rehearse their production of Hamlet. Hamaries MGM 1.15, 3.35, 6.05, 8.35; Odeon Memorine 5.20, 6.25, 8.45 BROWNEART (15) Mel Gibson directs and stars. Odeon Memorine 2:50, 7:40; Plana 12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 11:00 (Sat)

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY (12) Towa-set romages. Warner West End 5.10, 8.00, 11.00

THE SHOTHERS MEANALEN (15) Three brothers search for true love and happiness. Tohor-ham Court Road MGM 1.55, 4.35, 7.05, 9.45; Odom Mezzanne 3.15, 6.20, 8.40 Odenn Mezantre 3.15, 6.20, 8.40 CITY OF LOST CHRUBEN (15) A map kidnaps children to steal their dreams. MGM Swiss Centre 2:10, 4:30, 6:55, 9:25

CLERESS (12) Teen movie satire. Warner West End 1220, 220, 420, 620 CROSSIN TOP (15) Submarine thriller. Pro-cadero MGM 12.10, 3.10, 6.10, 9.10, Urnid-night (Sat): Odeon Memorane 2.45, 5.55, 8.35 DENI: N A BLEE DRESS (15) A redundant war Curson West End 1.15 (Sat), 3.40, 6.10, 8.4 Ruty Cinema 1.30 (Sat), 4.00, 6.35, 9.10, 11.30 (Sat) + One False Move

FRIMELI (15) Biopic of an 18th century castrato singer. MGM Swiss Centre 200, 4.20, 6.45, 9.20

• ROOR ROOMS (18) Four mini films directed by Quentin Tarantino, Alexandre Rockwell, Albson Anders and Robert Rodriguez, Hay Market MGM 1.10, 3.40, 6.10, 8.40; Ricco Chema 2.10 (Sat), 4.30 (Sat), 6.50, 9.15, 11.25 (Sat); Warner West End 2.10, 4.30, 7.00, 9.20, 11.55 (Sat-Son)

FRENCH ISS (12) Meg Ryan stars. Warner Ries End L40, 410, 640, 930, Limidnight (Soi-Sun) ROLEMEE (12) James Bond is reincar-nated by Pierce Brossam. Odeon West End (2.30, 3.45, 6.00, 8.50, 11.45 (Sat)

LA HABE (15) Tensions estatate in a group of ethnically mised teenagers. Shaftesbury HBMY (15) Low-tile America examined, Have market MGM 1,25, 3,30, 6,15, BA0; Renoir 1,55, 4,10, 6,30, 8,50 THE ROSEMAN ON THE ROOF (15) Epic 19th century adventure. Barbican Cinema 3.00 (Sat/Sun), 6.00, 8.40; Chelsen Cinema 2.20.

5.15, 8.15; Curson Marfair 1.45, 5.30, 8.15; Lumiere 2.20, 5.15, 8.15; Ritry Cinema 2.50 (Sat), 5.40, 8.30, 11.20 (Sat) ● LUID & FREEDOM (15) Ken Loach's latest.

Curson Phoenic 1.15 (Sat), 3.40, 6.05, 8.30 Lifting HI OSLIMON (15) A director experiences a catastrophic day's filming, Panton Smeet MGM 2.10, 4.40, 7.15, 9.35 THE MADNESS OF INFO GEORGE (PG) Alan Bennen's comedy. MGM Swiss Centre 2.00, 4.40, 6.45, 9.30

MORDER HITHE FIRST (15) A young Lawyer faces a doubting first case. Trocadero MGM 12.10, 3.05, 6.15, 9.00, 12midnight (Sat):

Partitier (18) A Black Parither is asked in become a double agent. Trocadero MGM Sat 12midnight

L POSTRO (15) A poet helps a postman with matters of the heart. Panew Street MGM 200, 4.31, 6.81, 9.20; Shafteshurr twone: MGM 2.10, 5.25, 8.25 MGM 2.10, 5.25, 8.25 THE ROW OF THE COUNTRY (15) A reemager Geo-his severe father. Totarham Court Read MGM 1.55, 4.25, 7.00, 9.35; Odeon Hayman-

ber 1.15, 3.40, 6.15, 8.45 let 1.15, 3.40, 6.15, 8.45

SEPER (18) A series of marden stamp homicale detectives Barbican Cinema 3.30 (Sun), b.15, 8.40, Tottenham Cinem Read (GM 1.20, 4.00, 6.30, 9.20, Colon Leicester Square 12mon, 2.50, 5.50, 8.45, 11.40 (Sat); Ricy Cinema 3.10, 5.50, 8.30, 11.15 (Sat) + The Vanishing (Jate) Sungal Titlan (15) Chanese gangster thriller, MGM Swint Centre 1.53, 4.15, 6.45, 9.15 (Sat) SSHOMERE 5 (18) A dancer sleeps her way to

SHIMBELS (18) A dancer sleeps her way to large Odeon Mable Arch 221, 525, 531, Odeon West End 12.40, 3.25, 6.10, 8.55, 11.50 (Sat)

◆ SIMERIME TO THAE HOURT (15) A house-wife's life falls apart when she discovers her husband is unfaithful. Trocaders MGM 12.30, 2.35, 4.50, 7.05, 2.76, Filarner Riest End 12.10, 2.40, 5.00, 7.20, 9.40

12.10. 2-40, 5.00, 7-20, 9-40

**DOE FOR (15) An aspiring TV star enlists the belp of a teenager to munder her husband. Picc MGM 1-30, 3-45, 6-10, 8-30. Collean Mercurum 2-255, 6.15, 8-40, 11.20 (Sat-Sun)

● The USBAL SUPPERTS (18) Five known felous plan another crime whilst in police custody. Panton Street MCM 2-05, 4-30, 7-00, 9-25; Worner West End 1-35, 4-05, 6-20, 9-10, 11.40 (Sat-Sun)

● THE WAR (PG) Vietnam vet Kevin Costner teaches his son the concept of pacifism, Empiric Sq 12.45, 3.15, 5.55, 8.35, 11.15 (Sat) When them is FALING (18) A conventional Christian academic woman falls for a flamboyant circus performer. Piccodilly MGM 1,31, 3.45, 6.10

THE WHITE BALLOON (U) Transan tale about a young girl's struggle to buy a goldfish.
Renet 1.15, 3.10, 5.05, 7.05, 9.05; Riev Curera 1.00 (Sun), 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00

0171 except where noted Barbian Commo 0/71-638 8591; Chelsen Cinema 0/71-638 8591; Chelsen Cinema 0/71-351 3742; Curzon Mayfair 0/71-369 1720; Curzon Phoenis 0/71-369 1721; Curzon Wess End 0/71-369 1722; Empire Leicester Square 0990-889990; Lumiere 0/71-379 50/4; Haynarhet MGM 0/71-3750; Phoenis Street MGM 0/71-3750; Phoenis MGM 0/71-37356; Shoftwalary Assemb MGM 0/71-37356; Shaftesbury Avenue MGM 0171-836 6279: MGM Swiss Centre 0171-437 3096: Tonust-MGM Swiss Centre 0171-437 30%: Yanasham Cuntt Road MGM 0171-436 014%: Theaders MGM 0171-434 0132: The Minema 0171-235 425: Odeon Haymarket 0171-830 7897: Odeon Leicester Square 0171-930 232: Odeon Marble Arch 01426-914501: Odeon Mezzanine 0140-91568; Odeon West End 0171-930 5252; Plaza 0990-88990; Renor 0171-937 5402; Rizay Cinema 0171-377 5402; Warter West End 0177-437 4343

REPERTORY CINEMAS

EVERTAIN opposite Hampstead Tube NW3 (0171-435 1525) Don Juan De Marco (15) Sat Liffunt

Don Juan De Marco (15) Sat LiSpan, 5.05pm, 9.05pm, 9.05pm, 9.05pm, 9.05pm, 9.05pm, 9.05pm, 9.05pm, 9.05pm, 9.05pm, 100 Juni Earlie (PG) San Jum Bisycle Thieves (U) San 5.20pm, 9.10pm, 11 The Night Of San Lorenzo (PG) 7.10pm Ich CHERA The Mall SW1 (0171-920 3647) The Kingdom (Parts 1 & 2) (15) Sat J.30pm, 7.15pm; San 1.230pm, 1.15pm FamilyPeig, Sat, San 0.50pm

BEL Satt Dank SEL (0171-078, 1770)

(0181-741 2255) (UISI-41 255)
The Spirit Of The Bechive (15) Sat 6.45pm + Land & Freedom (15) 8.45pm The Frost Page (PG) San 2pm + Fellow Travellar (15) 3.50pm The Big Blue (15) San 6pm + + Betty Blue (18) 8.20pm

THEATRE

WEST END CHOICE Matinees -- [1]: Sun. [3]: Tue. [4]: Wed. [5]: Thu, [6]: Fri. [7]: Sut

(018948) 1978 Sondheim and George Furth musical. Downer Worehwise Eartham Street, W.C. (0171-369 1732) © Luic St. Mour-Sai 7.20, [4][7] 3.00, ends 2 Mar, £12-£24. THE DOCHESS OF MALFI

INDUCTES IN MODIFICATION TRIBUTES IN MODIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY STATES AND TRIBUTES AND MODIFICATION OF THE GLASS MEMBERNE TO THE GLASS MEMBERNE See Critic's Choice.

Comedy Panton St (0171-369 1731) & Pres Circ.

Mun-Sai 7.30, [7] 3.00, cards 16 Mar, £5-£23. HOBSON'S CHOICE Harold Brighous russum s game. Harold Brightome's comedy. Lark Staticsbury Avenne, W1 (fi[7]-494 5045) ⊕ Pacc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30, [7] 3.00, ends 3 Feb, £8-£24.

Process Feet States of Sta

AR BUEL RUSHAM. Martin Shew and Auma Carteret star. Theatre Royal Hayemarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) & Fice Circ. Mon-Sai 7.45 (171am, 700), [487] 300, ends 20 Apr., 88-524 until 16 Jan, then £10-£26.

Accisiment take on JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Read, WCZ (0171-494 5085) & Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat E.15. [4] 2.30, [7] 5.00, ends 30 Mar. E9-E2A-50.

Henry Herman's romantic musical.

Piccadally Denman Street, W1 (0171-369

1734) ⊕ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3.00,

£17.50-£32.50. ROTAL NATIONAL THEATRE times for today Olivier Chivier: Notice Courage and Her Children Duvid Here's new take on Brecht. Today 2.00 & 7.15.

Lystellon: Rossucratiz Ind Guidenstern Are Bend Simon Russell Beale stars. Today 2:15 & 7:30.

Open Bollywood's Neweroddin Shah in

Rostand's epic. Last performances today 2.30 & 7.30. 230 & 7.31. Olivier & Lyttelton £7.50-£22.50, Conesice E10-E14-50. Day seats from 10am, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) BR/G Waterloo.

usans, 3E1 (0171-28: ZSS.) BRAO Waterfoo, BROAL SHADES PLACE CHAPPER times for roday The Barbicans: A Cartaines Carol Ian Judge's production of Dick-ers' tale. Last performences today 2,00 & 7.15. The Pic. The Person State Dennis Potter's portrays Christ as a man of the people, with Joseph Fiermes. Last performances today 200 & 7.15. Barbean Theatre: 46-424, The Pir £10-£16, Barbean Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891)

REPERT STREET LONEL! HENETS GLUB Jonathan Harvey's Liverpudian love story. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) & Picc Circ. Tise-Sat 8.00, Sun 7.00, [7] 4.00, [1] 3.00, ends 3 Mar, £5-£20.

His Similar Republic State Sta

TRANSPORTING Levine Welch's darkly comic insight into rgn urug camura. audors West Street, WCC (0171-836)

TE 育地 斯丁托 朔山(県S NEW WIND IF THE TRAILORS
Yet another seasoned chance to catch Alan
Beamet's version of Grathame's rovel.
Old Vir Waterkoo Read, SE1 (0171-928 6655)
BRAD Waterkoo, Men-Sa1 7-30, [4][7] 2-30,

ends 30 Mar. £6.75-£24.75.

BEYOND THE WEST END 94C Adol's House Julia Stubbs plays Nova in a restaging of Excetora Theatre's 1994 production. Tise-Sat 7.3 jpm. Sun 5.30pm. mats 17, 24 Jan., 2pm. meds 27 Jan. 20. cones So. Tue paywhay you can. Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223) HR: Chapham Junction.

gitSH THESTIRE Goldannik, Road Brittersweet drama by Simon Bent set in Shepherds Bush. Mon-Sat öpm, ends 3 Feb. £9.50, concs £6. Shepherds Bush

Green, W12 (0181-743 3388) Shepherds Bush. AROUND THE COUNTRY

Norwich

HORNICH PLANIOUSE
The Rise and Fall of Little Water Jim Carrwight's
haunting play with songs, directed by Henry
Burke, is the new Norwich Playhouse's
second production. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thu
& Sat 2.30pm, ends 27 Jan. 67-611, cones
available. St George's Street (01603-766466)

Stratford-upon-Avon THE OTHER PLACE THE OTHER PLACE
The Painger Offishingur Laurence Boswell
directs Don Pedro Calderron de la Barca's
psychological thriller. In rep. tonight 7.30pm.
13-£17, cones available. Southern Lane
(01789-295623)

OVAL SHARESPEARE THEATRE Dists Classor Peter Hall directs Christopher Benjamin in Shahespeare's political drama. In rep, today 1 30pm & 7.30pm, £6-£42, standing £4-50-£5, comes available. Waterside (01789-295623) SMAN THEATRE The Charry Crehard Adrian Noble directs

Chekhov's masterly last work, in rep. today 1.30pm & 7.30pm, £8.50-£28.50, coms available, Waterride (01789-295623)

EXHIBITIONS <u>Cambridge</u>

William Richalson See Crinc's Choice.

Milliam Richalson See Crinc's Choice.

Milliam Richalson Five new studyures. The-Sat
12.30pm-5.30pm, San 2pm-5.30pm, ends 25
Feb, phone for details. Castle Street
(01.223-35)124)

Authors proving the proving t HETTER GALLERT

Art und Petter: Europa natier für derützters 1380-1400.

Includes wurk by Nolde, Bechmann, Klee and Barlach, Mon-Sun 10am-6pm (until 8pm Tic & West), ends 21 Jan. 25, comes 23.50.

Belvordere Rond, SEI (U171-96) 4242)

BR/G Waterloo.

BNC# Macano.

Brid Lacksen of RRS

Brid Lacksen of RRS

Brid Backsey Drawing retrospective. Mon-Son (Bam-6pm, each 23 fan. £4.51, const. £.50, Britington House, Floeadilly, WI (0171-439 7438) ◆ Piccadilly Circas.

HETERAMPELART GALLERT Whitester E. and whitest fail Molds Comprehensive show of citis, watercolours and prints by German Expressionist. The San 1 Jans-Spin (Wed until 8pm), ends 25 Feb. 54-50, concs £2.50, free Tuesdays. Wintechapel High Street, £1 (0171-522 7888) & Aldgate East.

COMEDY

London CORRUE CARR AT LORDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS Seamic Conran, Stewart Lee, John Mann & Alan Parker. Rought 7-45pm, Houghton Street, WC2 (017) 4-76 1672) & Holborn, £6, Students £4.

COMENT CAFE Kevin Gilden, Müke Hayley, Owen O'Neall & Andre Vincent. Tonight 8.30pm, Rivington Street, ECT (017)-739 5706) & Old Street, 28. Scient Salva Hacker Hapfie Terry Adderton, Jeany Ectair, Phill Jupitus & Arthur Smith. Thought Span, Mare Street, ES (0181-985 2424) BR: Hackney Central, E3

CHECEUS CHADE Deriter & Keith Fields. Totight 7.15pm & 11.15pm, Chalk Parm Road, NW1 (0171-924 2766) & Carnden Town, £10, cones £7.

CLASSICAL

BORLLISMORRI SMAIN BUSINESS
Bournesses Symbols Orchastra/Warren
Including Sulfiven's Ruddegore Overhare,
Must-orgaly 'Adept on the Bare Memorian
Stravinsky's Forchard State. Sent Span. Ed.

Eastbourne CONSIDERS THE REPRESENTATION OF THE REPRESEN

(01323-412000/cc 411555) London

Estimates

Helica Orchestra of London Phillippo Borodin's

Prince for Oceane. Technikowsky's Violin

Concerto and Sibelius' 5th Symphony.

Tonight 7,30pm, 16-610. South Square, SW1

(0171-222 1061) & Westminster.

(0) 11-22: ((0)) - Westminster.
White Mell
Large Leiferhaus See Critic's Choice. Today
5.01pm. Phone for availability.
Indexy Quarist Beetinever's Op.18 No.6, 2nd
Resumovsky and Op.135 string quartets.
Tonight 7-20pm. Ed-Li 4.
Bart-Andre Handin An all-Lizst recital,
including Fever Marmor and two Hungarian
December Sun Arm. 66:112 Warmor. Rhapsodies. Sun 4pm. £6-£12. Wagmore Street, WI (0171-935 2141) ⊕ Bond St.

DANCE

London

ROYAL FESTIVAL Hald.
English National Ballet-Swan Later Rasses.
Struckhova's production to Tahaikovsky's
music. Today 2,30pm & 7,30pm, 88-55,
lamply comes available, South Bank Centre. SE1 (0171-9th) 4242) BR/@ Waterloo. SMOLEK'S WELLS Corazon Flammico Sea: Critic's Choice. Muni-Fri 7.30pm. Sati 3pm & 8pm. emis 10 Feb. £5-£25. Rosebery Avenue. EC1 (0171-278 89 [6713 6000] ⊕ Angel.

London LORIOUR LISEMM: ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA La Bath Worth Michael Frayn's adeptation of Offenbach, directed by lan Judge. Today 2-30pm. 8, -30pm. 88-50. St. Marrin's Lane. WC2 (0171-632 8300) & Leis: Squate.

Die tate Stadt First UK performance of Kurngold's score, conducted by Rassell Keather, Son 7, 15pm. E7-216, South Bank Centre (0171-9a) 4242) BRAO Waterloo.

POP

ort Correction Classic Emplish folk-rock ers. St David's Hall The Hayes (01272-878444) Sun 7.30pm, £8-£12.

<u>Charlbury</u> Origin Hunty
Bert lausth Acoustic folk guntar from the legendary Pentangler. Histories: Playing Close
(01608-810967) Tonight Spm, 17. cones fit.

Inth 4AD ethorealists get on the road with new single, Single Girl. Colchester Arts Contre St Mary-at-the-Walls, Church Street (01.00-577301) Tonight Spm, 25, coops £4.

Hitchin The latest Reformed staties rockers featuring original members Hilton Valentine and John Steel with new singer Robert Kane Herminge Ballmom Herminage Road (01462-450200) Tonight 9pm. £6.

Organ Lanus Sentes-mittenece String ingham reckers also to be seen in Paul Weller's band. The Garnge Highbory Cor-ner N5 (0171-607 IS18/cc 344 0044) & Highbury & Islington. Tonight 8pm, £5.50. Chef Badhous See Critic's Choice. Subterma Actium Road W10 (0181-960 4590) O Ladbroke Grove, 18 Jan. 9pm, £10 Sary Hall & Cathrya Craig Country from roots rocker Hall and Nashville songwriter

Tocker 1481 and Assessment Accept Road N1 (1971-226 6913) & Highbory & Islington. Stands Road N1 (1971-226 6913) & Highbory & Islington. Stands Rad Mick Hucknall tours his new Life album. Wembley Arena Empire Way HA9 (1981-900 1324) & Wembley Park. Tonight & Sun, 6.30pm, phone for availability. JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK ETC

The Sas Sierts Out-jazz days. Moles Club George Street (01225-333423) Tought Spm, E4, E3-50 cooks, E3 mems.

ny's Hungry hats Squeaky sax gara.

Katherine Street (0181-253 1030) Tonight Spm, £8, cones £6. London

Rat Ratering Opinist Mellow trumpet grant.

Jan: Cafe Parkway NW1 (0171-344 0044)

© Camden Town, Tonight 7pm, £15, a.h. San Rivers Trio Arty, ambient tenorist from New York. *The Rhythmuc* Chapel Market NI (0171-713 5859) & Angel. Tonight

Spin, £10, cones Br.
Hiski Hosk's Infinitus Young London pianist.
The Plathtraic Chapel Market N1 (0171.713
3859) ◆ Angel. Sun Spin, £7, cones £5.
Eathe Parker Smith Worldbeat Bauties. Uniter
Stocke Newingson Charact Street N16
(0171-254 6510) BR: Stoke Newingson.
Tonight Spin, £7.

Sevenoaks Laranas Ethereal jazz. Stare Theatre London Road (01732-450175) Tonight 7.30pm, £7.

LITERATURE

London
TS Eliel Poetry Priza Previou Readings From the ten shortlisted poets nominated for the award due to be presented on January 15. Abneida Theane Almeida Street N1 (017) Abnesia Theane Atmetida Street N1 (0171-359 4404) ⊕ Angel. Sun Tpm, £6, cones £4. Noices Of Conscience Readers including Hume Crossyn, Richard McKane and Stephen Watts. Approach Tower Approach Road E2 (0181-980 2321) ⊕ Betimal Green, Sun Tpm.

EVENTS

Brighton
holder On ten Drama, comedy, music and haller in this show for all ages. brighton
Centre King's Road (01273-212881) TueThu 2pm, Fri 7, 40pm, Sai 2pm, Spm, Spm, Spm, Sun 2pm, 5pm, ends 28 Jan, phone for details.

<u>Chettenham</u> Collectors' Record/CD Fair Town Half Impensi Consider Institute I and I am Hall Imperial Square (01242-22799) Today (Dam-430pm, El before I Iam, SUp alter. Chebroham Spa Smally Johnson Fair 40 stands of furniture, jewellery, Siver, poperlain and more. Pintile Pump Room Massam Albert Resal (01242-227979(cc 523690) Sun Ham-430pm, El, child free.

Gloucester Cred & Dish Tops Display of tops from nearly forty years of production. The Glouvener Folk Museum Westgate Street (0)482-26467) Mon-Sat (Oam-Spm, ends 3 Feb,

LAPADA Autopuss and Fine Int. NEC., Birmingham, Wednesday-Sunday (0121-767-2760). Royal Shonground Winter Antique and Collecture: Stemplength, near Kenthovorth, Warwickshire: over 400 dealers (IACF 01636-702226). Becausing antiques and Boulines King & College, Fullham Road, west London, Wednesday-Sunday (Harvey D171-624 5173). Epsian Repostures over 100 dealers, Tuesday (Continuity Fana 01584-873634).

and the winners are...

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

Concise crossword

W H E N | C | C L E S H A N G B Y T H E W A L L

E E H A V 1 I I H H F T I I O

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TRAVELLER MASCOT STOCKSTILL

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G A R

Cryptic crossword

Winners:

Dr RHS Carpenter from Cambridge is the outright winner of our Jumbo Christmas crossword competition, and is now the lucky owner of The Oxford English Dictionary on CD-Rom, worth £580. The next three cryptic entries drawn from the sack were: Mrs E. Taylor of Branscombe, Devon; Charles Lulham of Colyton, Devon, and Rev GS Gibson of Bedminster, Bristol. They will each receive the Oxford Reference Shelf and the Oxford Compendium on CD-Rom. A complete set of the Oxford Illustrated Dickens will be winging its way to Caroline Richards of London SW12, whose entry was the

Finally, Michael Hastilow of London SE10; Ruth M Dixon of

Oxford: Marian Ray of Petersfield, Hampshire, Elaine Wealleans of Camberly, Surrey and Mrs O Hazleton of Glynneath, West

first picked of the concise crossword runners-up.

Glamorgan, all win copies of A Christmas Carol.

church services

Second Sunday after Epiphany CONTROLLER CONTROLLER NAME (1), 9 Norm Matters, The Very Rice Dr C.A. Levens, Harm Sense Enchanies, Misselvers at al. (Matter), The Decent J. 150m Evensons, Huwells on G. 6, 20pm Compline. The Archdesens Tight Misself Nam. 3 45 m HC. (Norm Stag Eachangs), Misselberts, (Berkeley), Cannon Paul Fergerson, 13,00m Matter, Indamia in F. dynn Extensing, Word in F. The Rey Hillery Edgertens.

BRISTOL CHRENDIL 7 40km, Matuns, Sain HC, Higor Choral Eucharis, Mikos Ingers (Ives). Cancer Pe-ter Johnson, 3:30m Choral Evenson, Stanford in C, Cancer Alexau Reddern. BRIST SI BRISTOS, S. dismarking Ariostal. Sand HC, Cancer Samon Petter. Item Sourg Euchard. Sand HC, Cancer Matunellin. Mean brevis in G (Meant). Cancer Matunel Memory. 3:00m Charle Jevenson, Rose in C mason; 6:30m Churches Logether Unit-al Servace

Rose in C marror, 6,38pm Charlette Negether United Servace
GSERISE CHRESCHI 7,48tm Morning Frayer, Sam
HC, The Prosoct 9,38tm Enchairst, The Rev Bill
Price: 11,15cm Charal Matths, Stanford in B flat,
The Prosoct, Spin Christingle Servace, Brum Surtees: Appa Christingle Servace, Brum Surtees: Appa Christingle Servace, Brum SurDavid Rangha,
GRESCHE GRESCHI, Stan HC: 10mm Mattins, Bovec,
in C. The Chancefort, 11mm Sung Bacharist, Surford in C. The Proceeding, 3,30pm Exemunit,
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O come ve actionate of the Lord 15(s), The Texsurer: 11 ISam Mattins, Bruce in C. The Sub Deam,
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forement Servace, The Procet Vetar.
ELIOCESTER CHRESCHE, Sam HC: How HC:
Sym Exphany Carol Service

GRIFFORD CAPELDRAL. Sam HC, The Rev John Gurdon Clark; 9.45 am Sung Encharla, Mesa brevo (Galynel), The Dears II, JiSam Marins, The three longs (Cormelius), Mrs. Helden Bissert, 6.35 pm Evensong, Comm Mechanis, Mode In Superior Grants, Mode in 8 many, The Treasurer (1.75 mm Marins, Harmood in A disc, 3.35 pm Evensong, Wesley in E. Prebendare Willer Gould.

NEMICH CHARLEST, 7.35 am Marins; Ram HC, 9.15 am Paralle Canamagaset, 10.25 am Samp Enchares, Missa Increa (Persentage), 10.25 am Samp Enchares, Missa Increa (Persentage), 10.25 am Samp Enchares, Missa Processon with Carties Tilear nation, Samp Eysphane Processon with Carties Tilear Dean (Principles, 1.5 Migns Expense), 12 mm Samp Enchares, 1915, 1916,

SURFESTER CHIEFERS, Ram HC, 10.30am Marten, Stanford in C. The Dens, I.Lisham Euchares, Missa semi tour (1.00cm), 3.30cm Eventsong, C. Regium regale (Theremer), Canon Waller, WORDSTRE CHIEFERS), 9.30cm Family Eucharist, 10.30cm Sung Euchares, Wortgester trans (Hunst, The Dense dput Frens, sig. Great newtor (Josephus & 6.30cm Commissioning of Droce as Youth Officer and Social Responsability Officer, The Bishop.

CHRIST (Insulal Catasins 7: Near, Mains and Laury, Run (KC, The Dears Out Parad Encharse, The Rev J.E. Restours: Harris, Harry Sung, Encharse, Si Indra's mean (Eliks), The Casson in Residence; L. Uyun Holy Encharist; J. Myan Choral Evensong, Noble in B amort, Julius Parish Evensong, Noble in B amort, J. Julius Ments, The year of the Lord (Elger), b. Myan Evensong, Se Cadoc corrile (Bertons). it in the Loyal Edger, in Appart Presents of Castering, Barthook, Strong Committee, Sant HC, Ham Commit Bendingsid, Yr is-Camory, "Olymp Parish Eucharus, The Dean, It Upin Choral Mutuus, Stanford in A. The Canter, Span Choral Eventoning, The Societies.

SIME: 1321 NORTH BASS, Open Medice, 11 am Sing Eschured, Massa braves (Chapple), The Ven Michael Coldrough, 3.15pm Eschworg, Metsoren in G. Castan Idea Halbborton.

#ESTMESTER ###F Sun HC. Biam Mattins. The Rev Lyb Democr. 11.15pm Abbev Eschured, Mass Ire ilmir touses (Byrd), Carnen Cola Semper, Spra heer-sens, Sunisson as G. Carnen Authors Harves; 5.45pm Organ Recurd by Stephan in Presset; 6.30pm Forming Service, Surfe Halary Markes; STEPHERME EMERGENI, Sun Eschurett: 19.35 am Choral Eschuret, Messe voluncitie (Langlan). 1. men Droid Albaren, Syn Cheral Eschworg, Col-legium regule (Hossells), Carnen Rey Wiltie.

WESTHMASTER CRIMENPAL: 7 am, Acm, 9 am Manc, 10 am Morring Prayer, 10,30 am Sulemm Mans, Missa Previse (Palestrum: 12 pm Manc, 13 dpm Solemm Vesters and Benediction, Magnafinat action (one startas). A Jöyen Organ Renetal by Andrew Reid, S. Jöyen. 7 pm Mans. Harman Donole Larury. Bornamier Organ Mattins. Harm Donole Larury. Beneminer Organ Mattins. Harm Donole Larury. Beneminer Organ and Cortal Mance, varyen of Crock. GHERMAI, OF the semental of The MOTHER F 620 Glassian Ordania. Landon SWT: 10,30 am Donole Latury. Choral Mance of the Newsyn and Zammerny traditions, samp in Church Sheeving. Chemical Mance of the Newsyn and Zammerny traditions, samp in Church Sheeving. Chemical Mance of the Sentime Ormadat, London WH: 11,250 am Donole Latury, Inchistonal Service. Chemical Mance, supp in Church Sheeving.

CHORAL MAN, supp in Church Sheeving.

an Merchand Service, The Rev Meda Guarder, Marchand Froyer, Globia in carelon (WeeRess), The Rev G.D. Washims.

The Bases Google of the Steep Servey Hill. W.C. Hand Matters. Varighms Williams in G. The Chaptains, 13 an Liboral Morning Prayer, The Rev L. 20pm 186.

The Bases Google of the Steep Servey Hill. W.C. Hand Matters. Varighms Williams. Varighms Williams in G. The Chaptain, 12-30pm 186.

The Bases of A ware of L. Chaptain, 15 and H.C. Hand Matters and A waren. Alternative U.S. was Hill. Handware Steep Linchtows, Darks in F. The Rective, 15 and Matters and A waren. Alternative U.S. Warm H.C. Hand Matters and Learner, Capit Lee Wills.

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as against by an ionat. Privacyal Street, E.C.; 3: Janh Satig Eucharist, Carron Samited; Vaix Culm, All Saldts, Murgaret Street, W1: Alm Low Marse, ILLRoss Murgaret Street, W1: Alm Low Mass, Musa solesinate for Committy, The Vicay 5,15-pm Low Mars, fryst Solesina Electrony, The Vicay, All Saldts, Philips (16-Light, NW), Non 16-Lyn, Volum Song Eucharist, 11-John Franch Each-street, organ Song Eucharvic, 11 John Feinally Eucharpic, opin Strig Feerstong, ## Sonit. Langitam Place, W.I. Sam HC, Ham Gen-damindo Service, The Rev Stephen Wookey, 6.30pm. Casters John (Dispersa). Casters John (Dispersa). Casters John Mill Start, Old Charch Street, SW, F. Nam HC, (Ham Children's Servicer: Ham Massuns, Mr. J. Wathertows, 12 I Spin HC, Sym Ewsterney, The Rev Dr. P. Elly, Holling Holling Street, Mr. Jo Cike, Spin, 7.30pm Informal Service, Mr. Jo Cike, Spin, 7.30pm Informal Service, The Rev Poddy Gun-bel.

Song Eucharmi, Missa Incres (Darlow), The Restart, Stamer's, Piccadilly, R. Rom HC. Ham Song Eucharme, The Rev Donald Rocwer, S. 45pm Evening Project, Shame Sarkshylin, Carchet Hill, EC4: 10.30sm Song Euchards. The Rev John Panf.
Schalt, Stratford Breashery, E15, Ham Fundy Server, The Rev Marus Holmandert follows HC. The Rev John Richardson, E16, Ham Fundy Server, The Rev Marus Holmandert follows HC. The Rev John Richardson, Bland Breash, NW: Sam HC. 9 Wann Parch Gommoners: Ham Song Euchards, Mease solemache (Rossint), The Rev Mart O. Jehr.
States (Housen), The Rev Mart O. Jehr.
Ham Parch Server, SW2: Sam HC. 9 Wann Parch Gommoners: Ham Song Euchards, Mease solemache (Rossint), The Rev Leving Massama, S. Man Evenson, The West States (Housen), The States (Housen), The West States (Housen), The States (Housen), The West States (Housen), The States (Housen), The West States (Housen), The States (Housen), The West States (Housen), The States (Housen), The West States (Housen), The States (Housen), The West States (Housen), The West States (Housen), The West States (Housen), The West States (Housen), The West States (Housen), The West States (Housen), The Mease (Housen), Shipper Evening Program, Medication and Recadelision.

3 Bay States (House Steepes, SWI), Vann, Hum Low Masse (Hall Sant, Asim Steepes), E16, House (Housen), The Low Masse (Hall Sant, Asim Steepes), The Rev David Gomes (Housen), Shan Enderson, States (Housen), Shan Low Masse (Hall Sant, Asim Steepes), Shan States (Housen), Shan Low Masse (Hall Sant, Asim Steepes), Shan States (Housen), Shan Low Masse (Hall Sant, Asim Steepes), Shan States (Housen), Shan Low Masse (Hall Sant, Asim Steepes), Shan States (Housen), Shan Low Masse (Hall Sant, Asim Steepes), Shan States (Housen), Shan Low Masse (Hall Sant, Asim Steepes), Shan States (Housen), Shan Low Masse (Hall Sant, Asim Steepes), Shan States (Housen), Shan Low Masse (Hall Sant, Asim Steepes), Shan S 24 May's Protected 16th NWA Sam HC 1923han Parash Foodistion. The Rev David Jones, open Liveney Parer Stationary of Michael and Mangala Hadford Park, W.J. Sata HC. Hum Parash Lechanos, 6.24pm Escales on.

Sing Eucharni, Missa brevis [Durlow), The Restart.

Si lame's, Piccadiffy A. Ram HC. 11 am Song Eucharni, The Rev Donald Rocver, S. 45 pm Evening Prayer.

Si lame's, Piccadiffy A. Ram HC. 11 am Song Eucharni, The Rev Donald Rocver, S. 45 pm Evening Prayer.

Si lame's, Piccadiffy A. Ram HC. 11 am Song Eucharni, Missa School, The Rev John Paris, Stratford Strandson, Els. 11 am Family Service, The Rev Manus Holmidian in Aligna HC. The Rev John Rickardson.

She's Manus Political in Aligna HC. The Rev John Rickardson, Will Sam HC. 10 am Song Eucharni, Missa John Paris, Statist Song Eucharni, Missa John Paris, Statist's, Sydney Street, SWI: 8 am HC. 10 am Moving Prayer and HC. Of God, thou art up Oud through; The Rev Sac By Massar, Sham Evenance, and Benedation. Weed in D. Statist Mass.

Silknip Mass.

Silknip Mass.

Silknip Missa Mass RVI-10 (Mozarti, Capra S. Missa Mass RVI-10 (Mozarti, Capra S. Missa Mass RVI-10 (Mozarti, Capra S. Missa Mass RVI-10 (Mozarti, Capra S. Missa Mass RVI-10 (Mozarti, Capra C. Missa Mass, Statist Capra, Els.), The Rev Ambony Spealman.

Silknip Reventif Park Rand, NWI: 11 am Sung Euchards, Missa Solvent Mass, Mass RVI-10 (Mozarti, Capra C. Missa Mass RVI-10 (Mozarti, Capra C. Missa Mass RVI-10 (Mozarti, Capra C. Missa Mass RVI-10 (Mozarti, Capra C. Missa Mass RVI-10 (Mozarti, Capra C. Missa Mass RVI-10 (Mozarti, Capra C. Missa Mass RVI-10 (Mozarti, Capra C. Missa Massa Missa RVI-10 (Mozarti, Capra C. Missa Massa Missa RVI-10 (Mozarti, Capra C. Missa Missa RVI-10 (Moz man. Buggir Church, Fleet Street, ECA, 8-30am LIC, 13.15am Morning Prayer, Colleganti regole (Howelts), The Master.

Steinholt Charled Sections, New Secret, SWI; Hard Configurations, The Rev John H. Melindre, 6.30pm, The Rev W. Alexander Carris. Grant Cart (Charlet New Sections), Russell Street, WC. 11.15ans, The Rev Dinna Rewnscod, 6.30pm, The Pare Stanley Hond. the Lady of the Remargher, Watwick Street, W1: Spen, 10am Marx. 11am Sung, Laten Marx. Musca O'regrens 10ch (Palextina). 15pm. 4pm. 6pm. 6pm Mass. Plan Street, W1: 7.30pm. 50pm. 10am Marx. 11am. Laten Mars. Missa breves (Mozzert): 12.15pm Mars. 5 Michael E-Saus: 415pm. 6.15pm Mars. 5 Michael E-Saus: 415pm. 6.15pm Mars. 5 Michael E-Saus: 415pm. 6.15pm. Mars. 5 m. 10am Mars. 11am Solomo Mars. Mars. 0 mars. 11am Solomo Mars. Mars. 0 mars. 11am Solomo Mars. Mars. 0 mars. 3.40pm.

Lutherin Choral Venpers, The Rev Paul D. Schusepe.
Schusepe.
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of Mate. The New E. Cape.
Welley (English States Christian), Chy Roud, ECL: 9.45 cm.
14C. 11 cm. Montaing Servere, The Rev Dr Gordon
C. Barrett.
Westburger Chaptel (Independent Evangellers), Buckungham Cane. Wil. 1 Jun. 6.30 cm. Dr R.T. Kershill.
Beausthery Cantral Supter Christian, Christian
W.C.-11 ann. Olyon, The Rev Barrier Hibbert L
Machantan Material, Sector of Friends (Omborns), Sch
Schwin & Late, W.C.-11 cm. Moesting for Westhip.

Scienne Vespers, O nomen Jesu (Philips), 4.30m. Juni Mass. The Boot Shaphard and the Lady Station Road, Perige East, SE20; 9.45am Rosany, 10am Bidentine Mass.

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Ease, SEZO, 9,45cm Russay, 10am Bidentinic Mass.

Binds Street Hedentic Church, W.: 16am M.C. Dombid Sopper, 11am, Dovid Ornice; 6,30cm M.C. Jound Craske.

Binds Street Hedentic Bind (Mechodics), SWI: 10am UN Sorvice of Octobratawa (ticker tesputned), The Rev Dr Donatel English, 6,30m Festaria (6 Praise-liabitation States) and Chapel, Russday H.B. Hampstehd, NW: 11am, The Rev Justich VARies Friegx.

Tym Eventury Service.

Bentingsin Street Her Lawrett, Allen Street, We. 11am, The Rev States Lawrett.

11am, The Rev Timothy Pob.

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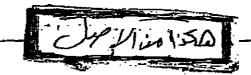
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18 Martin 2 Program Lawr, Greekham Street, Ed-11am Chocal HC, The Rev Paul D. Schmeiger, 7mt Luthertan Choral Vergetts, The Rev Paul D. Schmeiger.



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Television by Gerard Gilbert

Our Friends in the North 9pm BBC2 (above). Ambitious, so-far-so-fine, nine-part drama from Peter Flannery, tracing four friends from Newcastle from 1964 till today (1896080). Cutting Edge: Sexual Harassment 9pm C4. It is estimated that one in three women are sexually harassed at work. Cathy Elliott's film follows four of them as they pursue their cases through industrial tribunals (2370). Omnibus 10.40pm BBCI. Special extended-length film charting the history of Gospel music in the United States (6850912).

After Hours: The Scott Inquiry 12.05am

R5. Every night this week, the late-night current affairs slot looks at the aftermath of the Arms-to-Iraq business and wonders

what the inquiry's final report has in store

for Government ministers.

The Decision 9pm C4. Medical dilemmas brought into focus in a new series. In the first case, a woman in her 19th week of pregnancy discovers she has cervical cancer. Can she afford to wait five weeks for a caesarian? (1898448). The House 9.30 BBC2 (above). A year in

the life of the Royal Opera House, Fly-onthe-diva TV in six parts (82239). The Guif War 10.45pm BBC1. The series, like the war, draws to an inconclusive end (640852).

Space Fictions 2pm R4. Four programmes

on how outer-space has been tackled in fiction, with contributors including Brian Aldiss and Doris Lessing. As one speaker

puts it: "The profound tragedy of science-

fiction is Sputnik."

Coronation Street 7.30pm ITV. Brian and Denise - she thinks it's all over; he has other ideas (833).

WEDNESDAY

Hollywood Men 9pm ITV (above). From the people who brought you Hollywood Women and Hollywood Kids (Carlton in other words), what it's like to be a man in Tinseltown – and whether it's strictly necessary to be surgically "enlarged" (5630). Under the Sun 9.30pm BBC2. Why, in 1994, some 100 people were burned as witches in South Africa (241678).

Times Past, Times Future 7.45pm R4. Three former Home Secretaries - Merlyn Rees, Roy Jenkins and Kenneth Baker - discuss the powers and limitations of the office, with former Chief Constable John Alderson describing what it's like at the other end of the chain.

The Real X-Files 9pm C4. Another chance to see this film from last year's sci-fi week-end - about the CIA's experiments in the

THURSDAY

paranormal (4031).
French and Saunders 9.30pm BBC1.
How many people will appreciate Jen and Dawn's homage to Federico Fellini? Either way – Kate Moss agrees to come in and be ribber (56925) ribbed (66925). Inside Story 10pm BBC1 (above). Cameras follow as four lads are groomed to become the next Take That (697079).

First Men in the Moon 10am R4FM. James Bolam unwisely tries to out-ham Donald Sin-den (spluttering vigorously as the eccentric Professor Cavor, inventor of the anti-gravity metal cavorite) in a four-part adaptation of H G Wells's jolly tale of lunar exploration.

Film: Internal Affairs (Mike Figgis 1990 US) 10.45pm BBC1 (above). Richard Gere plays it nasty as the bent cop to Andy Garcia's investigating police officer (18384762). Fantasy Football League 11.15pm BBC2. How will Des "unflappable" Lynam play it with the Lads as he lands guest-manager

spot? (315906).
Film: A Brighter Summer Day (Edward Yang 1991 Taiwan) 12.30am BBC2. Yang's masterly portrait of coming of age in early 1960s Taiwan (6169759).

Charles Ives Weekend 7.30pm R3. Three days of concerts and features devoted to one of the great-original thinkers — and great entertainers — of modern music, beginning with a BBC Symphony Orchestra concert-live from the Barbican.

Sunday Television and Radio

BBC₁

6.45 FIEM Coward of the County (Dick Lowry 1981 US). The brother (Kenny Rogers) of a Southern preacher is dubbed a coward for refusing to join the army (703462).

Radio

by Robert Hanks

the army (703462).
8.15 Suenos – World Spanish (4523066).
8.30 Breakfast with Frost. Tony Blair (47172).
9.30 See Hear! (S) (3432714).
9.45 The French Experience (S) (3437269).
10.00 United Nations Anniversary Service. From the Central Hall Methodisc Church, a service to

commemorate the first ever meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations, 50 years ago this month (\$) (68004).

11.00 The 11th Hour (\$) (28288). 12.00 CountryFile (S) (89714).

12.30 News; on the Record. The proposal to bring British Summer Time in line with European standards (91240). *

1.30 EastEnders. Omnibus (S) (5538172). * 2.55 Signatures (3) (3036172).

2.55 Signatures (3) (3036172).

Cold War thriller based on the Alistair Maclean novel finds a Russian satellite coming down near the North Pole. Stars a distracted-looking Rock Hudson and a proficient Patrick McGoohan, then

at the height of his Prisoner fame (31057627).
5.15 Black Hearts in Battersea (S) (654337). *
5.45 News; Weather (215608). * 6.05 Local News (689820).

6.10 Songs of Praise. From Richmond-upon-Thames (S) (285820). * 6.45 Antiques Roadshow. From Llangollen, in mid-Wales. I often find myself wondering how many of these antiques are – however unwittingly – stolen, especially when people claim they "picked it up for a fiver at a car-boot sale" (S) (952240).

7.30 Pie in the Sky (S) (649424). * 8.20 As Time Goes By. Lionel receives a letter from his ex-wife. Literate but snoozy sitcom with Judi Dench and Geoffrey Palmer (\$) (835627). * 8.50 News, Weather (808733). *

9.05 The Gulf War. See Preview, p28 (147207). * 10.05 Filipina Dreamgirls. Andrew Davies's Screen One film from 1991 about five men from Wales who book an eight-day package to the Philippines hoping to return with a mail-order bride. Nice to see Chartie Drake out and about again, joined by Bill Maynard and David Thewlis (R) (234424).

11.45 Escape from the Planet of the Apes (Don Taylor 1971 US). The best of the sequels, which is saying very little, finds some of the apes going back in time to contemporary LA (803998). 1.20 Weather (1583973). To 1.25am.

REGIONS. NI: 2.55pm Now You're Talking. 3.20 Rathlin Island 3.50 Big Al. 4.05 Columbo. 6.05 Inside Ulster News.

BBC2

7.30 Children's BBC: Rupert. 7.35 The Adventures of Skippy. 8.00 Playdays. 8.20 Grimmy. 8.40 Jackanory: Fingal. 8.55 Bitsa. 9.10 Teenage Jackanory: Fingal. 8.55 Bitsa. 9.10 leenage
Mutant Hero Turtles. 9.35 Phantom 2040. 9.55
Highly Sprung! 10.25 Grange Hill. 10.50 Agent Z
and the Penguin from Mars. 11.15 As Seen on TV.
11.45 Star Trek (6679356).
12.30 Fantasy Football League (S) (15627).
1.00 Singled Out. US dating game in which

contestants pick out a date from the studio audience (20646).

1.30 Regional programmes (14998).
2.00 SEE Finnsan's Rainbow (Francis Ford Coppola 1968 US). Coppola in his big-budget debut, and Fred Astaire in his last starring role, made this unfairly slated musical about an Irish immigrant, whose leprechaun (a very bouncy Tommy Steele) comes to life in the American Deep South (84103646).

4.15 Ski Sunday. The men's downhill from Kitzbuhel, Austria (5955406).

4.55 Rugby Special. Highlights of Wasps vs West Hartlepool (S) (1328207).

5.55 Natural World. New series begins with a sequel to the popular 1993 documentary about Echo the elephant and his calf, Ely, who live in Kenya's Amboseli National Park (S) (840511).

6.45 The Big Trip. Travel series aimed at the yoof market (Lisa l'Anson as narrator gives the game

away) in which three pairs of friends go backpacking. See Preview, p28 (950882). * 7.30 The Persuader: The TV Times of Lord Lew Grade. The TV mogul's career assessed with the help of Roger Moore, Patrick McGoohan and Miss Piggy. From last year's ATV Night (647066).

8.20 In Search of Power. Kirsty Wark introduces a three-part investigation into who really wields the power in present-day Britain (480443). 9.00 The Tourist (S) (227917).

9.50 Another Foot in the Past. Actress Liz Dawn (Coronation Street's Vera Duckworth) revisits a childhood haunt (R) (S) (843627). 10.00 Timewatch. The hidden history of the great

temple of Karnak, See Preview (S) (179627). *

10.50 To From Hollywood to Deadwood (Rex Pickett 1991 US). A Hollywood actress disappears midshoot and two private eyes are hired to find her in this enjoyable indie road movie (78480511).

12.25 Grim Prairie Tales (Wayne Coe 1990 US). Four camp-fire horror stories, as told to city slicker Brad Dourif by bounty-hunter James Earl Jones (7513931). To 1.50am. REGIONS. Wales: 1.30pm Welsh Lobby. 4.55 Scrum

5. NI: 1.30pm Gaelscoil.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 The Sunday Review. 6.30 News and Sport, 7.00 The Sunday Programme (70998). 8.00 Disney Club. Eliza Szonert (Danni in Neighbours) and juggler Andy Ball are in the studio (S) (35525172). *

10.15 Link. How disability products are marketed (S) (7448733). *

10.30 Sunday Matters. Dora Bryan talks about her faith, and we gatecrash 11.00 Morning Worship at St Peter & St Paul, in Wadhurst, Sussex (S) (32511). 12.30 Crosstalk (21563).

1.00 News, Weather (28172356). * 1.10 Stuntmasters (8193269). 2.00 Yesterday's Heroes. Frank Worthington and

Charlie George (6375). 2.30 The Sunday Match. Birmingham City vs Charlton Athletic. Brian Moore supplies the commentary to

this top-of-the-Endsleigh clash (65902820). 5.15 Cartoon Time (4485882).

5.30 London Tonight (245849). *
5.50 News, Weather (421733). *
6.00 TEST Father of the Bride (Charles Shyer 1991 US). Uninspired remake of the 1950 comedy about a father's misgivings about his daughter's wedding has Steve Martin in the Spencer Tracy role, and Diane Keaton as his sensible, stoical wife. From the writer/director team who gave us Baby Boom, if you want an idea of the tone (S)

(6462). * 8.00 A Touch of Frost. A soldier is shot at an army

camp (\$) (8207). * 10.00 Lights, Camera, Action: A Centenary of the Cinema. Serious cineastes won't be taking their movie history from Michael Aspel, especially as there have already been two excellent series on the same subject (S) (7714). *

11.00 News, Weather (235627). *
11.15 Spitting Image. The 18th and last series of the Parker-Bowles, Paula Yates and Anthea Turner (S)

11.45 Compass. African game warden Stephen Pern takes a 1,500-mile walk along the spine of Japan (R) (920998).

12.50 TEM Zandy's Bride (Jan Troell 1974 US), Gene Hackman and Liv Ullmann play a grouchy western farmer and his mail-order bride in this unattractive romance (838270).

2.35 Cue the Music. Cue Fleetwood Mac in concert (7525370).

3,35 Alcha, Bobby and Rose (Floyd Mutrux 1975 US). Teens on a crime scree in the wake of the success of Bonnie and Clyde (2853554). 5.00 ITV Sport Classics (77115). To 5.30am.

Channel 4

6.20 Blitz! (R) (8734337). 7,15 Take 5. With The Magic Roundabout, Bush Tails.

Natalie, Nor the Engine and Joggy Bear (29171).
7.45 The Magic School Bus (S) (79612).
8.15 Hong Kong Phooey (4549004).
8.30 Stunt Dawgs (9789356).
8.55 Biter Mice from Mars (R) (9791191).

9,20 The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (4383337). 9,50 Earthworm Jim (S) (1848240). 10,15 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (1678269). * 10.40 Rocko's Modern Life (7909998).

11.05 Dennis (9597795). 11.15 Rawhide (831559).

12.15 Mission Impossible (195269). *
1.15 Football Italia. Internazionale vs Roma, featuring Paul Ince (63411801). 3.30 When Magoo Flew (2030559).

3.40 Eural Billy the Kid (David Miller 1941 US).
Robert Taylor, dressed entirely in black, stands out against the Technicolor backdrop of this, well, slightly colourless version of America's most famous outlaw legend (466117). * 6.30 Hollyoaks. From last Monday (R) (S) (608). *

6.00 The Persuaders! Danny mixes it with beauties and commies while playing roulette down in Brighton.
Why, those crazy Cold War years (18714). * 7.00 Time Team. A prehistoric river valley bed in Oxfordshire is about to be turned into a rubbish

tip. Tony Robinson and archaeologically-minded churns see what they can salvage (S) (6085). *
8.00 Hooper (Hal Needham 1978 US). 1978. Burt Reynolds. You can almost smell the clothessense and attitude. Actually, at this time, Burt's attitude was swiftly changing, as he increasingly sent up his machismo screen personality. Here he plays a stuntman beginning to feel his age, in an easy-going movie sympathetic to its subject. Director Needham was a former stuntman, and Reynolds himself was famous for doing his own

stunts (38267578). * 9.55 Myra Hindley – a Life Sentence. Updated documentary, originally shown in the Witness strand and given a dose of semi-topicality by Hindley's semi-recent letter to the Guardian, retracing the history of the Moors murder case and

considering the arguments for and against releasing Hindley (383172). *

10.55 American Football: The Road to Super Bowl. Get into shape (well, the sort of shape you get from drinking six-packs on the sofa) for 28 January's Super Bowl XXX with tonight's all-night screening of the two games that decide who will meet in the final - full recorded coverage of Dallas Cowboys vs Green Bay Packers, and Pittsburgh Steelers vs Indianapolis Colts (79034646). To 6.00am.

ITV/Regions

MISLIA As London except: 12.30pm James Bond Junior (21563). 1.10 Highway to Heaven (1759056). 2.05 Countywide (49459375). 2.35 Kipk Off Livel (99808608). 5.10 Duly (49459475), 2.33 http://diseb.1995040000 And buy Free (6180240), 5.40 Angla News (594627), 11.50 Films The Pick-Up Artes (828207), 1.25em Hotel Babylon (1476115), 2.05em tase artifold (9036467), 3.05em Cooth (5724979), 3.40em Shift (5652738), 4.30-5.30em Films Echo of Deine (26825).

THE TEE3/TOBISHINE
As Landon europic 1.2.25pm Tyrne: Newsweek. (3245511)
kinks: Yan Can Cook. (3361559). 1.10 Tyrne: Films: Men of
Shawatod Forest. (6537714). 2.00 kinks: Munder, She Wote
(3.46280). 2.30 Tyrne: The Tyrne Tees Martin-Luel. (522917)
2.55 Kinks: Films: Carry On Up the Jungle (6597:2199). 4.30
Voids: The Richard Whiteley Show (7763646). 5.00 Tyrne
The Richard Whiteley Show (4073627). 11.45 Film: The
Lady Forgels. (603366). 1.30am Films: Agithree Raasta
(6159221). 4.30-5.30am Johfunder (26825). THE TEES/TORISHIRE

CRITIAN.

As Landau except: 12.30pm Central Newsweek (6620375).

1.10 Highway to Heaven (1759066): 2.05 (TV Sport Classics (18028714). 2.30 The Central Match — Lue (65902820). 5.15 Our House(572733): 1.146 War of the Whoth-Sc20998. 5.00am Jobiandar (3737486). 5.20-5.30am Asan Eye (3836912).

RIV As Landon except: 12.25pm West: West Eye View (32.45511). Wales: Welch Agenda (32.45511). 1.10 Wish You Were Here...? (32068627). 1.40 West: The Middle Ages (76.198627). Wales Peak Performance (76.198627). Wales Peak Performance (76.198627). Wales Socore Sunday (31.25795). 3.10 Pilms: The Phantom Houseman (53.157714). 5.15 Bagdad Cale (672733). 11.50 Pilms The Pick-Up Artist (328207). 1.25am Hotel Badylon (1476115). 2.05am Late and Lond (50.36467). 3.05am Coach. (57.24979). 3.40am Shift (5652730). 4.30-5.30am Films Echo of Dana (26825).

NERDMM
As Lundon except: 12.30pm Seven Days (9696882). 1.10
May the Technique De With You (72/063627). 1.40 Cardons (64331004). 2.00 Wish You Were Here...? (6375). 2.30 The Mendian Manch. - Live (65902820). 5.15 Days with Dunier (672733). 11.50 Film: The Pol-Up Artist (62671). 125am Hotel Bobylon (1476115). 2.05am Late and Laus (6036467). 3.05am Coach (48060028). 3.30am Shift (6036467). 3.05am Coach (48060028). 3.30am Shift (6036467). 3.05am Coach (48060028). 3.30am Shift (6036467).

(72080) 4.30-5.30 Film: Echo of Dena (268?5) comb 12.30pm Westcountry Update (652)03751.

As tombon eugen (2.5 July meastoomy Open (25.10) 1.10 Highway to Heaven (2.193.269). 2.00 The Middle Ages (6375). 2.30 Westcountry Weelend Match (578). 3.00 Films Herry Viti and His So Wives (462.39882). 5.15 Getavays: 672.733). 11.50 Films The Pick-Up Arnst (828207). 1.25am Hotel Batylon (1476). 15.1.25am Late and Loud (603.6467). 3.05 Crach (572.5979). 3.40 Shift (552.738). 4.30-5.30am Picks Edit Chart Film: Echo of Diana (26825).

S4C As C4 except: 9.15 The Secret World of Alex Macs. 1851153: 9.45 Movewarch (850424) 10.15 Hobjoaks (875732), 10.45 New Garresmaster (874004), 11.15 The Averages (831559), 1.15 Royntia i Round (124511), 1.45 Roy (76105917), 2.10 Royntia i Round (124511), 1.45 Roy (76105917), 2.10 Royntia i Round (124511), 1.0 Garresman (1243187), 3.10 Garresman (1243187), 3.10 Garresman (1245187), 7.25 Dechea (241079), 5.30 Pobol y Cam (37356337), 7.25 Dechea (241079), 2.50 Pobol y Cam (3745637), 7.25 Dechea (241079), 3.50 Pobol y Cam (3745631), 1.9.50 Sach 47 Sul (304153), 10.05 San Seltan (652-52), 10.25 Satien (10608), 10.55-6.00pm American Football (875608).

Perplexity

Political arithmetic:

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Reg.

POLITY .

7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 2.00 Soul on Sunday 4.00 UK Top 40 7.00 Signs of the Times 8.00 Radio 1 Rock Show 10.00 Andy Kershaw 12.00 Mark Tonderai 4.00-6.30am Clive Warren Radio 2

(88-90.2Mb) TM) 7.0Gam Don Maclean 9.05 Michael Aspel 10.30 Hayes on Sunday 12.00 Desmond Carrington 2.00 Benny Green 3.00 David Jacobs 4.00 Chris Shuart's Piano Parlour 4.00 Chris squart's Planto Partor 4.30 Sing Something Simple 5.00 Sunday Soapbox 7.00 Bryan Forbes 8.30 Sunday Half Hour 9.00 Alan Keith 10.00 One Hundred Years of British Comedy 12.05 Steve Mad-den 3.00-6.00am Alex Lester

Radio 3 (90.2-92.4Mitz FM) 6.35am Open University. 7.00 Sacred and Profane. 8.55 Choice of Three.

9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Moming. Holst: Fugal Overture. Kreislen Praeludium and Allegro. Handel: Oboe Concerto No 3 in G minor (HWV 287). Raff: Reminiscence No 3 on "Die Meistersinger". Faure: Dolly Suite. Anon: Credo; Sanctus, Artist of the Week, Sandor Vegh. Mozart: Five Contredanses (K609). Holst: Quintet in A minor, Musorgsky: A Night on a Bare Mountain. Hellendaal: Grand Concerto No 1. Composer of the Week, Ginastera: Overture to the Crecle Faust, Gounod: Faust (excerpts). Tchalkovsky: Steeping Beauty (excerpt). Peel:

In Summertime on Bredon. 12.15 Music Matters. Ivan Hewett examines the life of Charles Ives. 1.00 News; From the Proms 1995. BBC SO/Gunter Wand, Bruckner: Symphony No 8 in C minor. 2.30 Spirit of the Age. George Pratt talks to Rogers Covey-Crump about the distinction between high tenors and countertenors. 3.30 Celebrity Recital. Beethoven String Quartet in 5 flat, Op 18

No 6. Berg: Lyric Suite. Schumann: String Quartet in A minor 5,00 Uister Orchestra/Nicholas Braithwaite, Stanford: Symphony No 5 in D.

5.45 The Sunday Feature; Conlon 6.30 Simon Keenlyside. The baritone gives a recital of songs by Schubert and Wolf. 7.30 The Sunday Play: The Double Dealer, William Congrese's



A perky feature explores the life, opinions and music of Conlon Nancarrow (left) (5.45pm R3), possibly one of America's greatest composers, and certainly one of the most interesting. In Search of the National Interest (6.30pm R4) has German defence minister Volker Ruhe explaining his country's foreign policy to Sir Charles Powell.

Restoration comedy.
9.10 Choir Works. Emilio de
Cavalieri's Rappresentazione de
anima e di corpo. Cast includes
Catherine Bott, soprano (Anima). Paul Agnew, tenor (Corpo), Julia Gooding, soprano (Angelo). 11.15-12.30am Record Review.

Radio 4 02.4-94.6Miz Fit; 1986tz LVO 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Something Understood. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.10 Sunday Papers. 7.15 On Your Farm. 7.40 Sunday. 8.50 The Week's Good Cause. 8.55 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.10 Sunday Papers.

9.15 Letter from America. 9.30 Morning Service. 11.15 Mediumwave. 11.45 Foreign Correspondence 12.15 Desert Island Discs. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 The World This Weekend. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 Gardeners' Question Time. 2.30 The Classic Serial: The Barch-

ester Chronicles. (3/3). 3.30 Pick of the Week. 5.00 News; Crimescapes. (2/6). 5.30 Poetry Please! 5.50 Shipping Forecast.

6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Letters from Ireland. (6/6). 6.30 in Search of the National Interest. (2/5). 7.00 Children's BBC Radio 4: Tales from the Peritous Realm. (3/6). 7.30 A Good Read. 8.00 (FM) The Natural History Pro-

gramme. 8.00 (LW) Suenos - World Spanish. 8.30 (FM) That's History. 8.45 (LW) Francophonie. (3/5). 9.00 (FM) First Person Plural. 9.15 (LW) Short Stones in Spanish. Muy Lejos de Macrid by Jesus Fernandez Santos. 9.30 (LW) Flashpornis. 9.30 (LW) Writer's Weekly. (3/5). Choice

9.59 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.15 Medicine Now. 10.45 The Final Frontier, (1/6). 10.45 The Final Frontier. (1/6).
11.15 In Committee.
11.45 Seeds of Faith. (2/3).
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Story: Al the Pit's Mouth by Rudyard Kipling.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.

Radio 5 (EC) 909th Me)
6.05am Straight Up 6.30 Brian
Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Sunday
with Mair 11.35 Special Assignment
12.00 Midday Edition 12.15 The
Big Byte 1.05 Baker and Kelly Up
Front 2.30 Gary Lineker's Sunday
Sport 6.05 Jim and the Doc 7.00
News Extra 7.35 The Acid Test 8.05
Taking Drugs Serioushy 8.35 Asian News Extra 7-35 The Actor less 8.05 Taking Drugs Seriously 8.35 Asian Perspective 9.00 Daillyn Worldwide 10.05 Out This Week 10.35 Crime Desk 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 The Scott Enquiry 2.00 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports

Classic FM 自動からいる。 6.00am Serah Lucas 9.00 Classic Romance 12.00 Celebrity Choice 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 Masterclass. 4.00 Robert Booth 7.00 Book Browse 8.00 Classic FM Evening Concert. 10.00 Howard's Week 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00-6.00am

Virgin Radio (215, 1197-2434) SR 165.5840 FB 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 10.00 Paul Coyte 2.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Mitch Johnson 10.00 Gary Davies 2.00-5.00am Robin Banks World Service

12.50 1.00 World News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 Red Dwarf 1.30 Anything Goes 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Compose of the Month 3.00 World News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Jazz for the Asking 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Cff the Shell: McSorle Saloon 4.30 Europe Today 4.45 Red Dwarf 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Andy Kershaw

Satellite

5.00am Hour of Power (34462). 7.00 Undon (904882). 10.00 Ghoul-Lashed (28714). 10.00 Spider Man (79849). 12.00 The Hin Mix (49608). 1.00 Star Trek (58356). 2.00 Brisco County Ju-

(58356). 2.00 Brisco County Juntor (29443). 3.00 Star Trek: Voyager (55795). 4.00 WWF Action Zone (67530). 5.00 Great Escapes (8375). 5.30 Power Rangers (4288). 6.00 The Simpsons (61820). 7.00 Beverly Hills 90210 (85761). 8.00 Star Trek: Voyager (88511). 9.00 Highlander (85725). 10.00 Renegade (35202). 11.00 Seinfeld (75559). 11.30 Duckman (24998). 12.00 (33202), 11,00 Sentiach (73013), 11,30 Duckmen (24998), 12,00 60 Minutes (19115), 1,00 She-Wolf of London (94486), 2,00 Hit Mix Long Play (6741738).

SKY MOVIES SRY MOVIES
6.00em Marlowe (1969) (16714).
8.00 Girl Crazy (1943) (10795).
10.00 Darmy (1979) (64917).
12.00 French Sär (1993) (33545).
2.00 Snoopy, Corne Home (1972) (5157356). 3.20 Knul (1983) (59365714). 5.20 Dragorworld (1993) (4402153). 6.50 Shadowlands (1993) (55997153). 9.00 Murder One (93443). 10.00 The Crow (1994) (365733). 11.45 The Movie Show (577714). 12.15 Invis-Movie Show (577714). 12.15 Invis-ible: The Chronicles of Benjamin Ine Unioncies of Benjamin Knight (1993) (2508950). 1.40 Choices of the Heart: The Margaret Sanger Story (1994) (8908028). 3.10 El Martachi (1993) (1618347). 4.30-6.00am French Silk (1993) (63370).

MONTE CHAMBIFT. 6.00am Black Widow (1954) (14356). 8.00 Robotos: The Movie (1993) (18337). 10.00 Doglanian and the Three Muskehounds (1981) (62559), 12.00 Teenage (31288), 2.00 The Whipping Boy (1994) (90356). 4.00 Betman: Mask of the Phantasm (1993) (84974269), 5.50 The Spy Who Loved Me (1977) (80962820). 8.00 The Naked Gun 33 Vs. The Final Insuit (1994) (36820), 9.30

Acts of Obsession (1993) (422467), 3.00-6.00am Married to It (1993) (8323080). SIXY MOVEES GOLD 12.00mont An American in Pans (1951) (78857068). 2.35 A Farewell 10 Arms (1957) (34429207), 5.10 | Met Him in Paris (1937) (8:29714). 6.40 Sor-

in the Name of the Father (1993) (18439646). 11.45 Without

Warning, Terror in the Towers (1993) (924820). 1.25 Blindfold:

ry, Wrong Number (1948) (50325] 1). 8.10 Barefoot in the Park (1967) (64954849). 10.00 The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) (805397), 11,40 The Parallax View (1974) (834733), 1,25-3,15am High Society (1956) (556863).

TER CECLLIS 7.00am Give Us A Clue (8138627). 7.30 Going for Gold (6003379). 7.55 Spring and Au-turno (5579559). 8.20 The Pink Parither (9131066). 8.30 And Partiter (9131066), 8.30 And Mother Makes Five (6690998). 9,00 When the Boat Comes in (2518530). 10.00 The Pink Panther Show (5002288). 10.10 Dr Who and the Sunmakers (85156172), 12.00 Doctor at the Top (5694714). 12.30 It Ain't Haif Hot Murn (7065646). 1.00 The Day of the Tiffids (33369207). 2.50 The Bill Omnibus (57904998). 5.10 Bergerac (44416443). 6.15 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em (6505288). 7.00 The Do 'Ave 'Em (6505288). 7.00 The Paul Daniels Magic Show (4851153). 8.00 Miss Marple (58348820), 10.15 The Bol

11.05 Special Branch (1065269). 12.10 Relity Ace of Spies (51084298). 1.15 Public Eye (36783399). 2.20-6.00am Shopping at Night (52443047). SAT SPORTS 7.00am Soccer Extra (8219172). 11.00 Sports Unlimited (22220). 12.00 Goals on Sunday (77191). 1.30 Hold the Back Page (13511). 2.30 Futbol Mundial (1172). 3.00 Live Football: Covertry v Newcastle (2895424). 7.00 The Big League (92801). 9.00 Cricket (17559). 10.30 Football (80220). 12.30-

Monkhouse Show (2363714).

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00am Gitette World Sport Special (7601578), 7.30 Live International Cricket (5979998). 4.00 Sports Unlimited (4601424). 5.00 Trans World Sport (8116424). 6.00 NFL: Championship Game (1966733). 9.00 Got (3310220), 12.00 Snowboard Tour (7452399). 12.30-1.00am Gillette World Sport

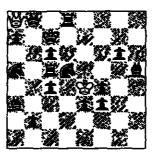
2.30am The Big League (21560).

9.00am AM 10.00 Fashion Show 1.00pm Week in Review 2.00 Sport 6.00 Best of Buzzin' 6.30 Roll Over Beethoven 8.00 Show-biz 9.00 Fashion Show 9.30 Live Video Box 10.00 Stand Up 11.00 The Sex Show 12.00mldnight Stand Up 12.30 The Sex Show 1.00-9.00am Night Hours

Special (3010863).

Pastimes

Chess William Hartston



Here's a problem that seems to have been inspired by a knitting machine. Com-posed by M Tomasevic in 1981, the task is for White play 76 consecutive moves, giving mate on the final one, without checking on the way, nor moving into check.

With those restrictions, White's queen is useless until the last move, which has to be Oxc6 mate, with the white king on c5. But how does he get there?

For Qxc6 to be mate, the knight on a5 must be eliminated, but before that, the rook on c5 will have to go, and before that the bishop on a3. After that piece of logic, the rest knits together easily: starting with 1.Ke5, the king worms its way round f7, g7, h6, g5, h4, h3, h2, g1, f1, e1, d1, c2, b1, a2 and takes on a3 at move 17. It then returns by the same path hitting e5 at move 33,

captures on a5 at move 55, finally clearing the way to head back once more and cast off with 75.Kc5 and 76.Qxc6 mate.

then 34.Kd4 and 35.Kc5. Reversing again, the king

A splendidly silly achievement, with the successive elimination of black pieces never allowing the white king any variation in his walking routine.

letter represents a different digit, and no word may begin with a zero, what is the value of SMARTIES? A Larousse Desk Reference Encyclopedia will be awarded to the first correct entry opened on 25 January. Entries to: Saturday Pastimes, the Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary

Wharf, London E14 5DL Christmas Perplexity answers: Hilary Clinton (only I can thrill). Eric Cantona (accent on air). Tony Blair (brainy lot), Michael Atherton (him thrainy lot, Michael Atherton (him no threat lace), Virginia Bottomley (nob triviality gone), Frank Bruno (run for bank), OJ Simpson (joins mops), Boris Yehsin (soberly at in). Ratko Mlathe (marital dock) Monica Seles (closes a mine), Camilla Parker Bowles (real power's blackmail), Rosemary West (worse mastery), Nick Leeson (see no clink), Vladimir Zhirinos-by (vivid nor risk lazy him) Winner: Philip Marlow.

Bridge Alan Hiron

Game all; dealer North

North

♦AJ3

♥J97

OAQJ3 **4**643 East **◆Q10652 ◆K874** ♥10863 ♥Q54 ♣AJ5 **♣1087** South

♦KQ92 The 1995 Lederer Memorial Trophy was a close-run affair

VAK2

OK 10762

Coyle, Edwin and Silverstone) cessful effort.

wound their way to a wobbly 6 ♦ but, if you look at all four hands, it was a contract that could hardly go wrong. The clubs divide 3-3 and the ace is well placed to provide a heart discard from dummy, Well, how did Assael (West) and with the President's team of Nafiz Zorlu of Turkey introveterans (Tehscher, Priday, duce a diversion?

To start with, West led a low overtaking their rivals in the heart and dummy's jack won. last round. The combined age Now declarer no longer needof the winners was over four ed three tricks from the clubs. times that of the British Junior He drew trumps in two rounds World Champions, who fin- and led a club from the table ished far behind. The prize for on which Nafiz followed with the best defence, oddly the jack! The king won, and afenough, went to an unsuc-ter crossing to dummy with the ♠ A, the next club lead found The Irish North-South East following with the five! Suddenly declarer had a

> finesse the nine or go up with the queen? Time stood still while he brooded but eventually he got it right.

> losing option: should be

It was a brilliant but unsuccessful try by East, well worthy of the award that it gained.



The big picture The Stepford Wives

Sat 10.35pm C4

Screenwriter William Goldman was on a roll in the mid-1970s. All the President's Men and Marathon Man were preceded by The Stepford Wives, his clever adaptation of Ira Levin's novel. The screenplay is a modern-day parable about suburban conformity. In Bryan Forbes's film, Katherine Ross plays an independent-minded wife who moves to the sleepy New England village of Stepford, where she is deeply disturbed by the submissiveness of the womenfolk. There's something fishy going on

at the local Men's Association...

Television preview RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND by Gerard Gilbert



Divine Magic Sat 8pm C4 The Bare Necessities Sat 9pm ITV Poter York's Eighties Sat 9.30pm BBC2 The Gulf War Sun 9.05pm BBC1 Timewatch Sun 10pm BBC2

last week - in denial of our Eignues served judge by the almost pathologically hostile reactionable and valid Peter York's last week - in denial of our Eighties selves. To Eighties (Sat BBC2) you'd think that the "style guru" was personally responsible for that giddy decade.

Indeed, critics seem to have had a collective fit of political correctness - seeming not to sense that York is sending up both himself and the decade. Didn't they read the label? This is Peter York's Eighties - not Will Hutton's Eighties, or, heaven forbid, Derek Hatton's Eighties. So, on with the show. "I love yuppies - they're such energetic little creatures," says the mischievous style guru, as this week he considers the property boom.

Of course, there was another side to the 1980s point for The Bare Necessities (Sat ITV), a pilot episode for a comedy-drama about five newly unemployed Yorkshire miners who form a troupe of male strippers. You can sense writer Ken Blakeson straining for Auf Wiedersehen Pet (on C4, coincidentally,

aybe we are, after all - as Peter York claimed at the same time), and, in common with most post-Thatcherite reports from our de-industrialised heartlands, the undertones are dark, but jaunty and tion to his perfectly enjoyable and valid Peter York's defiant. They can't hide a bleak desperation, though, the national tragedy that was the flipside of the 1980s.

Arthur Scargill's Eighties, you might say.

If some of us still feel guilty about our Eighties selves, then there are no such reservations about The Gulf War (Sun BBC1). After all, next to no-one died, did they, in the virtual reality of that conflict? Well, yes, of course they did - but they were mainly con-scripted Iraqi soldiers. You really feel for them, caught between the world's best equipped superpower and the world's most lethally self-protective leader. No wonder 200,000 Iraqi soldiers deserted.

In tomorrow's episode, the land war to liberate and the legacy of that other side is the jumping off Kuwait begins, and, instead of finding themselves in another Vietnam - or even Saddam's Mother of All Battles - the American military found themselves at a turkey shoot. The Iraqis became "lucrative targets". An interesting footnote: if Saddam had authorised the use of chemical weapons, the allies would have emics explaining all this.

breached the dams on the Euphrates and literally drowned Baghdad.

A new series called Divine Magic (Sat C4) starts with an eye-opening film about voodoo, which, if you were to believe Hollywood, is all about drinking fresh cockerel blood and raising the undead. In fact, it is a belief system devoutly held by more than 40 million people worldwide. Its bad public image started long before Hollywood was even an orange grove stemming from the fact that voodco became the symbol of resistance during the 18th-century slave revolts in that hell-hole that was colonial Haiti.

Timewatch (Sun BBC2) tells us how ancient Egyptian gods used to masturbate, fellate themselves and, each night, sleep with their mothers. If you don't believe me, look at the pictures on the walls of the ruined city of Karnak. High priestesses were called "God's Hand", for obvious reasons, and it was their duty to get the deities in the right mood to raise the sun of a morning and make sure the Nile had its annual flood. It's fun watching a bunch of dry acad-



The big match Wigan vs St Helens Sat 2.45pm BBC1

Wigan have triumphed in six of the last 10 Regal Trophy Finals. They must onceagain be favourites in the match against St Helens at the dazzling Alfred McAlpine Stadium in Huddersfield this afternoon, the last Final before the onset of the summer Super League. Wigan have more firepower than the US Marines; the speedy Martin Offiah (above) likes nothing better than living up to his nicknames of "Charlots" or "Great Balls"; while Gary Connolly has been in sparkling form running in tries

Saturday Television and Radio

BBC1

7,25 News; Weather (4827936). 7.30 Children's BBC: SuperTed. 7.35 The Artbox Bunch. 7.50 Iznogoud. 8.05 Willy Fog 2. 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (R) (S)

9.15 Live and Kicking. Cher is this week's main attraction. Trev and Simon rather less so (S) (68874690)

12.12 Weather (6447077). 12.15 Grandstand, 12.20 Football Focus, 12.55 Racing from Ascot: 1.00 the Victor Chandler Novices Hurdle. 1.10 News. 1.15 Rugby League: preview of today's Regal Trophy Final. 1.25 Racing from Ascot: 1.35 the Steel Plate and Sections Handicap Chase. 1.45 Skiing: World Cup men's downhitt action from Kitzbuhel, Austria. 2.00 Racing from Ascot: 2.10 the Victor Chandler Handicap Steeple Chase. 2.25 Speed Skating: British Short Track Championship from Guildford. 2.45 Rugby League: Wigan vs St Helens. Live coverage of the Regal Trophy Final from the Alfred McAlpine stadium in Huddersfield. See The Big Match, above. 3.45 Football Half-Times. 3.55 Rugby League. 4.40 Final Score (54277868).

5.20 News; Weather (3550232). * 5.30 Local News, Weather (637348). 5.35 Dad's Army. An unexploded bomb is discovered in the vault of Captain Mainwaring's bank (R) (638416). *

6.05 Jim Davidson's Generation Game. Bill Pertwee agrees to be a guest (S) (990665). *
7.00 Noel's House Party. Patsy Palmer is set up for a

Gotcha (S) (553058). 7.50 The National Lottery Live. Bonnie Tyler is Anthea's little helper (S) (164042).

8.05 Casualty. An Asian girl is attacked with a broken bottle, as Ash clears the decks for a romantic storyline (S) (159597). * 8.55 News and Sport; Weather (Followed by National

Lottery Update) (920955). 9.15 A Passion for Murder (Neill Feamley 1992 US). Entirely missable thriller whereby Joanna Pacula (Gorky Park) goes on the run when her politician lover is murdered, and is chased towards the Canadian border by both police and the mob. Michael Mouri is the taxi driver hired to take her there. You have no such obligation (S) (425868). 10.45 Match of the Day. Tottenham Holspur vs

Manchester City and Leeds United vs West Ham United (S) (9552787). 11.50 FIEM Spaceballs (Mel Brooks 1987 US). Tardy spoof of Star Wars in the Brooksian manner:

beautiful Princess Vespa must be rescued from the evil clutches of arch-villain, Lord Dark Helmet – that sort of thing. John Candy, Rick Moranis and Bill Pullman obviously didn't have anything better to do that week (S) (881936). 1.20 Weather (7288761). To 1.25am.

REGIONS. Wales: 4.55pm Wales on Saturday. 5.30 Wales on Saturday. NI: 5.30 Inside Ulster News.

BBC2

8.05 Open University: Preparatory Maths: Algebra (4563684). 8.20 Environment: The Heat Is On (8166665). 8.45 The Magic Flute (9715771). 9.10 Women in Science and Technology (4407961). 9.35 Me: A Student? (5054665). 10.00 Nadan Nadia. Pakistani comedy starring Babra Shariff (63711400).

11.50 Film 96 with Barry Norman. Seven, Showgirls and Devil in a Blue Dress re-Bazza'd (R) (5714110). *

12.20 Time The Philadelphia Story (George Cukor 1940 US). "A paste diarmond with more flash and sparkle than a true one", according to Pauline Kael, but it's everyone's favourite paste diamond. Katherine Hepburn sends up her then-icy public persona by playing the impossibly demanding Tracy Lord, brought down to earth and the level of humanity by her former husband Cary Grant and lovesick iournalist James Stewart (315752).

2.10 The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance (John Ford 1962 US). Over-long, overrated Ford western in which James Stewart's Eastern attorney gets an uneamed reputation for heroism when he shoots sadistic cattle-baron henchman Lee Marvin while passing through the Old West, John Wayne and Vera Miles co-star, although Edmond O'Brien steals the picture as a boozy newspaper editor (861961). 4.10 Best of Esther. You should see the worst (R) (S)

(5530435)4.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show, Grandparents claim their own children don't make suitable parents (R) (S) (7709042). *

5.**20 TOTP**2 (S) (7104416). 5.05 One Man and His Dog. And that's just the viewing figures. But seriously. We're in Cumbria for the finals. Last in series (S) (354329). *

6.50 News and Sport; Weather (955416). * 7.05 The Zambezi with Sandi Toksvig. Recycled travelogue with the hearty comedienne (R) (S)

8.05 The Trial. The ground-breaking series in which cameras were allowed into a Scottish court for the first time. The team revisit the lawyers, the victims and the defendants to see how they've fared since the original programmes were broadcast (R) (712435).

9.00 Knowing Me, Knowing You... with Alan Partridge (R) (5329). * 9.30 Peter York's Eighties. Property. See Preview, above

10.00 High Spirits (Neil Jordan 1988 US). Beetlejuice meets Ealing-style whimsy in Jordan's tale of a haunted Irish castle owned by eccentric squire Peter O'Toole, and the American tourists who agree to stay there. Daryl Hannah makes a beautiful ghost (615313). *

11.35 Olivier Ofivier (Agnieszka Holland 1991 Fr). A young boy goes missing in mysterious circumstances and, equally mysteriously, reappears six years later. Is he the same lad, or an imposter? (844503). To 1.30am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News; Weather. 6.10 Re:Win.d. 6.40 Eat Your Words. 7.10 Barney and Friends. 7.45 Saturday Disney. 8.55 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (2864400).

9.25 Teleganticmegavision (4388042). 10.25 It's Not Just Saturday. Dannii Minogue is the hostess (S) (4015936).

11.30 The Chart Show (R) (S) (63961). 12.30 Flantastic (S) (44752). 1.00 News, Weather (73469435). *

1.05 Local News, Weather (73468706). * 1.10 Movies, Games and Videos. Games include Virtua Fighter 2 (32091955).

1.40 Signi The Thomas Crown Affair (Norman Jewison 1968 US). Modish, shallow but good-natured heist movie, best remembered for the theme song and the split-screen credit sequence. Steve McQueen is likeable as the bored playboy who organises a bank robbery, then seduces the insurance agent (a bizarrely-dressed Faye Dunaway), sent to investigate the crime (93011139). 3.45 Airwolf (R) (300145).

5.05 Local News, Sport (3126145). 5.20 New Baywatch. The swimwear models go to the

4.45 News, Sport, Weather (3404481). *

rescue of some drunk kids involved in a boating accident (9619874). * 6.15 Gladiators: The Ashes. Don't you wish (S) (835416). *

7.15 Blind Date. What happened to Kerrie and Tony in the Bahamas? (Including Lottery Result) (S) (751400). *

8.15 Raise the Roof. This rather unsatisfactory game show finishes by dangling a £100,000 house on the Costa del Sol in front of the contestants. Won't be missed, despite the presence of nice. blameless Bob Holness (S) (151706) 1

8,45 News; National Lottery Update; Weather

9.00 The Bare Necessities. Newly unemployed Yorkshire miners become strippers in this raucously enjoyable pilot episode for a new drama. See Preview, above (7226).

10.00 Jack Dee's Saturday Night. Julian Clary, Björk and the Pretenders are the glum one's guests (S) (207400). *

10.45 Big Fight Live. Henry Wharton defends his European super-middleweight title against Vincenzo Nardiello of Italy (872049). 11.30 Funny Business (11077).

12.00 Pyjama Party. Katie Puckrik and gal chums (S) (2221375). 1.25 III Mischief (Mel Damski 1985 US). Emetic teen comedy, set – for no good reason – in the 1950s. Imagine a nostalgic version of *Porkies*. Then go to bed (943676).

3.05 God's Gift (R) (9670462). 4.05 Shift (Followed by Night Shift) (R) (2535269). 5.05 Coach (R) (S) (2479256). 5.30 News (67895). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.05 Sesame Street (R) (2361597). 7.05 Ulysses 31 (R) (3439597). 7.30 Super Marlo Brothers (R) (40077). 8.00 Trans World Sport (47110).

9.00 The Morning Line. Horse-racing news (S)

10.00 Blitz! American football news (39961). 11.00 Gazetta Football Italia. Italian football news (53597),

12.00 The Late Late Show (S) (14023). 12.30 Jitterbugs (Malcolm St Clair 1943 US). Laurel and Hardy were on the downward curve when they revamped their 1933 movie Arizona to Broadway to conclude their 100th film together. They play a two-man jitterbug band trying to help singer Vivian Blane and her mother recover \$10,000 from confidence tricksters (5271042).

1.50 Channel 4 Racing from Warwick and Leopardstown. Warwick: 2.00 Edward Courage Cup Handicap Chase; Leopardstown: 2.20 the Ladbroke Hurdle. Warwick: 2.35 Westminster Motor Insurance Insurance Novices' Chase; Leopardstown: 2.50 the McCain's Handicap. Warwick: 3.05 Tote National Handicap Cha 3.40 Warwick Gold Card Handicap Hurdle (S) (95981232).

4.00 Last Train to Medicine Hat. Oft-shown, but softly enjoyable travelogue in which Murray Sayle rides the trans-Canada railroad (R) (8322329).

.05 Brookside Omnibus (S) (2053110). * 6.30 Right to Reply. The Chinese authorities deny the accusations contained in Return to the Dying Rocms, while there's grief about the change of title music on Countdown and the open platform for celebs offered by The Andrew Neil Show (S) (771). 7.00 A Week in Politics. Frank Field on the stakeholders

to the Far East (9684). 8.00 Divine Magic. A history of myths and legends, mysteries and superstitions, miracles and mysticisms begins with voodoo, a belief system

Preview, above (S) (1232). * 9.00 Auf Wiedersehen Pet. Continuing the rerun second series - and the brickies help Barry with his kitchen extension. But where is Hazel, Barry's bride-to-be?

10.05 Father Ted. Cult sitcom about some houseshare

Irish priests (R) (233752). * 10.35 THE The Stepford Wives (Bryan Forbes 1975 US). Suspenseful treatment of Ira Levin's bestseller about suburban housewives taking a turn for the

Tokyo (S) (4688085).

3.20 Beat Specials. The Red Hot Chili Peppers (R) (9674288). To 4.20am.

ITV/Regions

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos
(44752). 1.05 Anglia News (73458706). 1.10 The Big
(946). 1.10 Anglia News (73458706). 1.10 The Big
(12174232). 1.35 A World of Wonder (76122680).
2.05 Anwolf (3241787). 3.00 Films Thirteen at Discos. 2.05 Annot (3241767); 3500 Tale (1888); Sport and Weather (3126145); 1.30am American Gardetus (2372627); 2.25am Filtre: A Fine Mess (9445849); 3.55am Filtre: The Stack Rider (5223627); 5.00-5.30am Misried David

TYNE TEES/TORKSHIP TME TEES/TORISHINE
As London empth 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos
(44752) 1.05 Regional News (73458705) 1.10 sea Questo Navol (782394) 2.05 Rime The Bobo (588771) 3.50
Annoli (2059085) 5.05 Regional News (3477955) 5.30
Tyre: Full Time (4508787) Yorks: Scoreine (4508787)
1.25em Orach (3445153) 1.55em The Ward The Woods
(2984462) 2.50em Film: Dad in the Wood (836153) 4.35-5.30am One the Music (2606714).

As London except: 12.30pm Heartland (44752) 1.05 Central News (73458706) 1.40 Cartoon Time (64437232) 2.00 Arwoll (3242416) 2.55 Weight Rate (5882597). 3.50 Thunder in Paradise (2059085). 5.05 Central News (3477955), 5.10 Destrat Match (4508787), 4.05em Johnster (4283240), 5.20-5.30em Asan Eye (3869240).

As London except: 12.30 California OF Best (44752), 1.05 Regard News (73468705), 1.10 Hausten turmen liabiton 1995 (1782394), 2.05 Movies, Games and Videos 1995 (1702394, 2013 minus, carrier at 1446, 245 fixus-der in Paratise (304951), 5.05 Regoret Mens (3125145), 1.30am American Gediators (2972627), 225am Films A Fine Mess (6131820), 3.15am West, Films A Pre-Mess (457820). 3.55am Wates Film: The Black Rider (5223627). 5.00-5.30am Wanted Deed or Alive (71172).

As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Garnes and Videos rs London except 12.5 Upril Mones, Gaints and Violes (44752): 1.05 Maridan News (73458706): 1.10 The Median Methol (32091955): 1.40 Yeshadays Heroes (76121955): 2.10 The Big Byte (18043023): 2.35 Caton (1893519): 2.55 Airwolf (5882597): 3.50 Knight Rider (2059085): 5.05 Metidian News (3126145): 1.30 Metid

1.30am American Gladialois (2972627). 2.25am Film: A Fine Mess (9445849). 3.55am Film: The Black Rider (5223627), 5.00-5.30am Freescreen (77172).

As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (44752), 1.10 Film: The Reluctant Agent (29905690). 2.55 Kright Rider (5882597). 3.50 Almyolf (2059089). 1.30am American Glediators (2972627). 2.25am Films er (5223627). 5.00-5.30am Wanted Dead or Alive

As C4 except 11.00 The Passades (53597), 5.05 Book side (2053110), 6.30 Hollwalks (771), 7.00 Newyd

Radio

Radio 1

(97.6-99.BM社 FB) 7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 12.30 Dariny Baker 2.30 Jo Whiley 5.00 John Peel with Danny Rampling 9.00 Radio I Rap Show 12.00 Essential Mix 2.00 Annie Nightingale's Chill Out Zone 4.00-7.00am Lynn

Radio 2 (88-90.<u>711</u>Kz FM)

6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Judi Spiers
12.00 Hayes on Seturday 1.30
Change at Oglethorpe 2.00 Martin Keiner on Saturday 4.00 Nick
Barraclough 5.00 Tom Paxton in
Concert 6.00 Lifestyle 7.00 The Concert 6.00 Energye 7.00 Into Story Behind... The Music Man 7.30 The Music Man 10.00 Sheridan Morley 12.05 Charles Nove 4.00-6.00am Mo Dutta

Radio 3

1902-92.4MHz FMD 7.00am Record Review, With certo for oboe and small orchestra. Schumann: Piano Quintet in E flat. Tippett: Concerto for double string orches-tra. Trad: Italian music from the time of Leonardo Da Vinci. Ovorak: The Water Goblin. 9.00 Building a Library. Jerrold Northrop Moore compares available recordings of Schumann's Carnaval. Plus David Nice on new releases of 20th-century orchestral music. Including Shostakovich's cello

concertos from Truls Mork.

10.15 Record Release. Coptand:
Symphonic Ode. Rachmaninov.
Etudes-tableaux, Op 33: No 2 in C; No 6 in E flat minor; No 9 in C sharp minor (Leif Ove Andsnes, piano). Shostakovi The Limpid Stream (Act 2). 11.15 Reissues. Leo Black on the

all-time great string quartets, including the Hollywood and Smelana groups. 12.00 Private Passions. Ken Russell talks about his musical tastes to Michael Berkeley. 1.00 News; Layer by Layer Archaeology magazine. Andrew Jones looks at how hi-tec tech-

niques are being used to demystify Roman life. 1.25 Youth Orchestras of the World. New Zealand National Youth Orchestra, Gary Brain and ah Jackson conduct. (1/8).



R4 starts a new season on man's relationship with the rest of the cosmos, "Journeys into Space" today's highlights include Jez Nelson on where space research takes us next, in The Final Frontier (4.30pm R4), and Heather Couper finding out about the partly functioning, wholly expensive Hubble Space Telescope in Starwatch (5.40pm R4).

ne Mitchell (violin), Andrew Ball (plano), Strauss songs. Debussy: Violin Sonata

Concert Orchestra/Christopher Adey, Raphael Walifisch (cel-lo). Duparc: Lenore, Komgold.

examines the life of Chartes 6.30 Live from the Met: Don Giovanni. Mozart's classic opera of seduction, murder and re-venge, one of his three collaborations with the librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte. Sung in Italian. Cast includes Thomas Hampson, baritone (Don Giovanni), Jane Eaglen, soprano (Donna Anna), Patricia Schuman, soprano (Donna Elvira). Ruth Ann Swenson, sporano (Zerlina), Stanford Olsen, tenor (Don Ottavio), John Cheek, baritone (Leporello), Herbert Perry, bass (Masetto) and Paata Burchuladze, bass (Commendatore), Chorus and Orchestra of the Metropolitan

Opera, New York/James Levine, Act 1. (8.05-8.35 The let Opera Quiz.) Act 2. 10.00 Blue Skies. Steve Jones attempts to bridge the gap beween art and science 10.30 Keystrokes: Night. An exploration of the 20th-century

Radio 4

Cello Concerto (Deception). Ko-daly: Variations on a Hungarian Folk Song (The Peacock). 5.00 Jazz Record Requests, With

in G minor. 3.50 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Geoffrey Smith. 5.45 Music Matters. Ivan Hewett

solo piano repertoire, including works by Griffes, Bartok and Britten, Introduced by Stephen Montague, Philip Mead (piano). 10.45-1.00am Nikki Iles, Alun Shipton introduces a concert of works by Nikki lles given by the Creative Jazz Orchestra for

choice

02.4-94.6MHz FM; 198MHz LVA) 5.50am Bells on Sunday 6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day.

6.55 Weather. 7.00 Today. 8.58 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Breakaway. 10.00 News; Loose Ends, With Ned Sherrin. 11.00 News; The Week In 11.30 From Our Own

> 12.00 Money Box. 12.25 Just a Minute. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby's guests in Ceres, File are Roseanna Cunninghan MP: the Rt Hon Michael for Scotland: and Mo Mowlam

1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 News; Any Answers?
2.30 Saturday Playhouse: The Ladykillers. 4.00 News; That's History: Journeys Into Space. 4.30 The Final Frontier. See

5.00 Consequences: The Poll Tax.

Tony Travers of the LSE tells the inside story. (2/4).

5.40 Starwatch. See Choice (1/6). 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Week Ending, 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. 7.50 Saturday Night Theatre: An Urnful of Ashes. 9.20 Music in Mind. the Contemporary Music Net-work at the Purceil Room, 9,50 Ten to Ten.

9.59 Weather. 10.00 News.

Choice (1/6).

10.15 Stanza on Stage. 10.45 Philosophy Figures: Wittgenstein. (3/4). 11.00 Touch of Genius. (1/4).

11.30 The Hitch-Hilder's Guide to the Galaxy. Douglas Adams's epic adventure. 12.30 The Late Story: Broken Nights. By Margaret McAllister. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service.

Radio 5

(693, 909lbb MW) 6.05am Dirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Hayes at Breakfast 9.05 Weeke with Kershaw and Whitteker 11.05 Top Gear 11.35 Crime 12.15 Sportscall 1.05 Sport on Five 6.06 Six-O-Six 7.05 Baske hall 9.35 Brief Lives 10.05 The Treatment 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 After Hours 2.00 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning

Classic FM (100.0-103.9MHz PM)

6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Classic Countdown 12.00 Classic Gardening Forum. From East Bergholt Horticultural Society in Suffolk, 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 The Saturday Alternative 6.00 Classic America 7.00 The World Opera Season, Sporton: La Vestale, Anthony Michaels Moore, J Patrick Raftery, Karen Huffstodt, Denyce Graves, Chorus and Or-chestra of La Scala, Milan/Riccar-do Muh. 10,00 Classic Quiz Opera Season, Spontini: La 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00 Classic Countdown 5.00-6.00am Michael Fanstone

rest (including the Virgin Grunchie Album Chart) 6.00 Mitch Johnson 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce **World Service**

Virgin Radio

(1215, 1197-1260Wt; MY 105.8WH; FM)

6.00am Janey Lee Grace 10.00 Richard Skinner 2.00 Mark For-

(1991): 130 1.00 World News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 The Traditions of the Prophet 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent 1.50 Write On 2.00 Newsday 2.30 The Ed Stewart Show 3.00 World News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Fourth Es-tate 3.45 Science View 3.50 Waveguide 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Short Story 4.45 The World in Your Ear 5.00 Newsday 5.30 In

democracy proposed by Tony Blair in his recent trip

shared by some 40 million people worldwide. See

robotic. See The Big Picture, above (60247690). * 12.40 Late Licence: Devil Man. Manga nonsense from

1.45 Twilight Zone (S) (50578). 2.15 Big Girl's Blouse (42559). 2.45 FYE! (9657511).

dion (557058). 7.15 A 55 (759042). 8.15 Hel Sira (159348). 8.45 Lhw/fan (158619). 9.15 Film: Nuns on the Run (10451145). 11.00 Film: Those Beddom Eyes (239042). 12.40am Devil Man (4688085). 1.45am Twilight Zone (50578). 2.15-3.20am Big Girls Blouse (42559).

Satellite

7.00am Undun (597351), 10.00 Ghoul-Lashed (84348). 12.00 WWF Mania (87435). 1.00 The Hit Mix (90955). 2.00 Teech (7435), 2.30 Family Ties (6771), 3.00 One West Walkild (97394). 4.00 Kung Fu, the Legend Continues (89329). 5.00 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (4394). 6.00 WWF Superstans (83619). 7.00 Robocop (17690). 8.00 The Secrets of the X Files (20110), 9.00 The Secrets of the X Falss (20170), 9:00 Cops (36923). 9:30 The Serial Killers (82936). 10:00 Saturday Night, Sunday Morning (48058). 10:30 Revelations (57706). 11:00 The Movie Show

(80058). 11.30 Forever Knight (80936). 12.30 WKRP in Cincimati (30646). 1.00 Saturday Night Live (70424). 2.00-7.00am Hit Mix Long Play (7125207).

SIO HOWES 6.00am Knock on Any Door (1949) (58313), 8.00 Across the Pacific (1942) (52394), 10.00 Smoly (1966) (79416), 12.00 A Perfect Couple (1979) (48145). 2.00 The Longshot (1986) (3-4313). 4.00 Across the Great Divide (1977) (9226). 6.00 3 Ninjas (1992) (50706). 7.30 My Father, the Hero (1994), Corne-dy starring Gerard Departieu and Kather-ine Heigl (40481), 9.00 Murder One (35042), 10.00 Ghost in the Machine (1993) (788936). 11.40 Pleasure in Paradise (1993) (955110). 1.05 The Break-through (1993) (2588443). 2.35 Worth Winning (1990) (493462). 4.15-6.00am Across the Great Divide (1977) (240288).

MOYIE CHANNEL 6.00am Rockin' With Judy Jetson 5.00am Rocker With Judy Jesson (56955). 8.00 Jern: The Movie (1986) (50936). 10.00 The Caddy (1953) (77058). 12.00 Look Who's Talking Now (1993) (46787). 2.00 Where the Red Fern Grows (1974) (32955). 4.00 Majority Rule (1992) (7868). 6.00 The Devil's Bed (1994). Thrifler starring Norlikets Sheridan and Jee Lando Nicollette Sherklan and Joe Lando (25619). 8.00 Look Who's Talking Now (1993). Cornedy starring John Travolta and Kirstle Alley (24936). 10.00 The Getaway (1994) (85503). 12.00 Blink (1993) (722559). 1.50 Staughter of the Innocents (1993) (445820). 3.35-6,00am Exposed (1983) (63703066).

SKY MOVIES GOLD 4.00pm The Young Philadelphians (1959) (98128684), 6.20 The Last American Hero (1973) (87079503), 8.00 Driver (1978) (79176), 10.00 Ganchi (1982) (60839042), 1.10-3.30am Rosemary's

Baby (1968) (29911795). 7.00am Give Us A Clue (8161955), 7.30 Going for Gold (5592400), 7.50 The Pink Panther (4102597). 8.00 Warship (3280936). 9.00 Secret Army (2621058). 10.00 Neighbours Omnibus (7074394). 12.00 Treasure of the

Yankee Zephyr (5312394). 1.50 Bless

This House (21054918), 2.15 EastFinders Omnibus (85103619). 5.00 What a Carry On! (9210495), 5.35 Fall and Rise of Reginald Perin (1803503). 6.10 French Fields (6201868). 6.40 It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (5674874). 7.15 The Liver Birds

(2061954). 7.50 Bread (9502690). 8.25

(25795023), 1.45-6.00am Shopping at Night (57734820).

(5023400), 4.00 Sports Saturday (70042), 5.30 Futbol Mundai (6313). 6.00 Sports Centre (3226), 6.30 World Sport (3526), 7.00 Cricket (34400). 9,00 Boxing (109961). 11.30 Hold the Back Page (26752). 12.30 Cricket (70559), 2.30-5.00am Boxing (528761).

The Bill Originals (12816481), 9.30 lack the Ripper (3382348), 11.30 Colors 7.00em Soccer AM (9213771). 11,00 WWF Raw (7795961), 12.00 Golf USA (8104874), 2.00 Live Rugby Union — Wasps v West Hartlepool (4129348), 4.00 American Sports Cavalcade 7.00am Racing (21936). 7.30 Live Cricket

(4634752). 5.00 Opposite Lock (5100333). 7.00 Basketbali (1491771). 9.30 Rugby Union Update (2366373).

1.00-9.00am Night Hours

By Order of the Official Receiver J. Reuser Esq. Bankruptcy Judgement # 0332 Insolvency Court of The Hague

re. Estate of the late E.Flipse UNRESERVED BANKRUPTCY LIQUIDATION AUCTION

to clear warehouse & finalise commission The Flipse International Diplomatic & Consular Collections High value, outstanding, rare & decorative categories, all guaranteed traditional handmade Persian, Turkish, Caucasian, Afghan

& other Top International Calibre Workshop, Village & Tribal ORIENTAL RUGS, RUNNERS & CARPETS Following receipt of Receiver's instructions to urgently liquidate all outstanding

merchandise frrom this commission, goods consolidated in warehouse & apportioned

in large mixed sections to be put under the hammer piece-by-piece where held entirely without reserve IMMEDIATE PUBLIC AUCTION

in two sessions SATURDAY 13 JANUARY AT 2 PM, VIEWING FROM 1 PM

SUNDAY 14 JANUARY AT 11 AM, VIEWING FROM 10 AM

WAREHOUSE 20, FARM LANE TRADING ESTATE, 101 FARM LANE, FULHAM, LONDON SW6 (By Earls Court Exhibition Centre, off Old Brompton Roadd/Lillie Road at Ongar Road; or off North End Road Fulham Broadway end, at Walkam Grove; follow signs) Telephone: 0171-381 6105 Payments: cash, cheques, credit cards EASY PARKING

Appointed by the Receiver to administer the liquidation of the Flipse Estate BICKENSTAFF & KNOWLES, 6 The Arrade, Thurloc Street, Lundon SW7



12.30am Skiff Salling (8391313).

9.00am AM 10.00 Fashlon Show 11.00 Video Box 1.00pm Weekin. Review 2.00 Sport 6.00 Best of Buzzin 8.00 Showbiz 9.00 Fashion Show 9,30 Video Box 10.00 Stand Up 11.00 The Sex Show 12.00mldnight The Sex Show It practically invented the personal computer, yet this week Apple announced \$68m losses. Mathew Horsman explains

The Apple that lost its crunch

Jers of the mighty Apple Macintosh computer are committed lot, fiercely loyal b the technology, rhapsodic bout the ease with which they an produce gorgeous prints nd crisp, clean text. Their achines, they will tell you, are he most logical and simple to se, and they're the aesthete's hoice - an Apple Powerbook, fter all, was selected for incluion in Terence Conran's esign Museum. Don't talk to pple Macolytes about rival BM, the technology of the reary, the choice of grey

The trouble, at least for opple's shareholders, is that here are just not enough facolytes. Designers, copyriters, illustrators and jouralists swear by the powerful, ser-friendly range of Apple roducts. But the premium rice the company has until cently demanded for its and the open party of the Mac's icon-based, oint-and-click system now ovided by IBM and its ues, have combined to cap ют Apple at just 9 per cent the market.

The extent of the rout came even clearer this week. hen Apple admitted that sses in the current quarter ne likely to hit \$68m. Two nior executives promptly camped, convinced the igic had gone - at its peak ple was generating nearly b in profits, putting this ek's announcement of its ses into dismal relief. The enemy is the combina-

n of IBM and Bill Gates's iller" operating system, crosoft's MS-Dos: Windows the new generation operng system launched with a ssive advertising campaign t year, upped the ante yet ther, narrowing the gap ween Apple and IBM by ing even cheap IBM clones

ability to ape Apple's tous technological edge. anatical Mac-lovers sniffed ut Windows 95, sporting hirts at the time of the nch that trumpeted: "Been re, done that." At this ak's Macworld trade show San Francisco, the 80,000 tors made it crystal-clear v had not lost faith, But rura doesn't sell computers. lext week, the hapless man-

urer will announce a masng off 3,000 of its 13,000 nloyees and writing off m worth of expensive to the prospects. intory. It was already ed to slash prices by up to er cent on many entry-I models in the run-up to noor Christmas selling od. There is now a chance le will drop the cheap end .e market altogether, con-

go of the specialist, higher-priced segment where its tra-ditional buyers, the creative So late did the market-leading out with its Mac II in 1987, entry into the PC market that community, reside

Sales in the last quarter of 1995 were up just 12 per cent - compared to 25 per cent for the PC industry as a whole. The company's shares lost 6 per cent of their value in a single day's trading this week, making up some of this lost ground yesterday.

What went wrong? How can the Apple of lore, the company that virtually launched the per-

was forced to rely on predeveloped technology, in the form of MS-Dos, the brain-child of Bill Gates and his col-

league, Paul Allen.
Their timing was a master-stroke: by selling IBM on MS-Dos, they launched, in 1981, an operating system that now powers 90 per cent of all PCs on the market, generating huge profits and confirming Mr Gates as America's richest man.



Apple's managers, starting with Steve Jobs himself, made key mistakes at crucial moments

sonal computer industry in 1977 with the first powerful machine that could sit on a desk, have climbed so high and fallen so far?

The launch of Apple 18 years ago, by high-school graduate Steve Jobs and his friend Steve Wozniak, was a near-instant success. Following up with the Apple II, the company managed to generate a brand new market, driven by the so-called "early adopters", who loved the pretty functionality and flexibility. It was a market - the home and small office - that industry leaders had ignored. Only when Apple began to expand dramatically, carving out a fucrative niche and updat-Big Blue, as IBM is known in financial circles, finally wake up

When it did so, the early signs did not much worry Apple. How could the lumbering IBM - hierarchical and stodgy - match the "can-do". collegiate verve of the young California-based company? But IBM had an ace up its ng that it can only make a sleeve, borne of desperation.

IBM's claim on the PC market took some years to confirm. As late as 1984, Apple was still in the chase, able with some effect to run a celebrated advertisement featuring a Big Brother (IBM, of course) pontificating from a huge screen at the back of a crowded hall. A woman weaves through the crowd, brandishing a sledge-hammer, and strikes a blow at the screen. Translation: Apple is the power of the people; the IBM PC just an extension of

of the corporation. The advert launched the Macintosh, which introduced the now-ubiquitous mouse and the "windows" that are now so environment.

grow faster than its seat-of-thepants management could sustain. Founders Jobs and Wozniak both left in 1985, replaced by a "real" manager: John Sculley, formerly of Pepsi. The company was in for a period of "professionalism" that was at odds with its garage origins. But the technology contin-

imous. This was the ultimate singing, all-dancing perfor-

As well, the company continued to make stellar profits, secure in the knowledge that it was offering a proprietary technology and getting the profit margins that went with it. Four years ago, pre-tax profits were an impressive \$855m, on turnover of just over \$7bn.

But IBM clones were mak-ing steady inroads, and the real winners were Bill Gates's Microsoft and Intel, the computer chip manufacturer. By 1991, Apple was in real trouble, and was forced into a joint venture that just a few years ago would have been inconceivable: an alliance with IBM.

The two jointly produced the Power Macintosh, one of the most successful new computers in PC history. Unfortunately, the company could not keep up with demand, and the tensions between Big Blue and Apple were obvious. Sculley was replaced in 1993 by Michael Spindler, formerly a finance director, and layoffs were announced.

Even more disastrously, Mr Spindler introduced a pricereduction programme to help shift more units, adding further to the profit woes.

So desperate had the position become by last year, that Mr Spindler was encouraged by the board to entertain takeover offers from competitors. The obvious candidate: IBM. But the negotiations failed - not least because the senior executives held out for

huge payoffs.

By last month, the die was cast. Sales in the lead up to Christmas were so poor that Apple again joined the price-cutting bandwagon, slashing the price of a basic Mac package by 25 per cent - closer, now, to what a bottom-of-therange IBM package might cost. In the UK, the price differential has come down to just a few hundred pounds; an entry-level Mac might well cost the faceless, dictatorial power under £1,000, depending on the retailer.

It is so easy in retrospect to see what went wrong. Apple's restructuring programme, ing its technology in leaps, did much a part of any computing ing with Mr Jobs himself, made kev mistakes at crucial Apple was beginning to moments, ignoring the signals a rapidly changing market was sending. For too long, Apple's undoubted superiority was disconnected from the lessons of marketing: its freewheeling corporate environment was allowed to degenerate into anarchy, and its stubborn refusal to licence its technology, which would have created

a vibrant market for Mac products, left the once-proud market leader in a ghetto.

Is there any escape for Apple? The company has very few options, according to the phalanx of computer analysts stock prices. It can drop the lowlevel computer business altogether, concentrating on the premium mid-market where it has always done well. That would not, however, sustain the sales levels that Apple shareholders have come to expect, even if it provided solace to the core group of users who sustain the company's still-excellent

reputation. Another option would be to spend freely on developing a comprehensive attack on the IBM clone stranglehold. But Apple would need to free up its still tight controls on licensing, in order to encourage software developers to bring new allowed five companies the

technology compared to the hundreds of similar deals done A more radical response would be to entertain takeover bids again, and there is certainly no lack of potential buyers: IBM, itself, of course, but

right to import its proprietary

also NEC or Sony.

army of Mac users worldwide who still swear by their Macs, Apples and Power PCs. Imagine the dilemma of the

confirmed Macolyte. Even with the recent drop in prices, maybe £500. It can do most of compatible products sits what Apple promises, and comes equipped with icons, point-and-click, the lot.

Windows also give users a link to the Microsoft Network, the next stage in the communications revolution. How long will the almost mystical attachment Mac users feel toward their computers persist, All the options are risky, against the competition of and will be cold comfort to the IBM and Microsoft?

face, claiming that they would never turn away from their beloved machines. But a visit to any High Street computer shop confirms what any objecforlornly on just two feet of shelf space; spread around the rest of the shop floor are a legion of IBM-style equipment and accessories, at prices Apple finds difficult to match.

Mac users put on a brave

So what if Apple got there first? IBM and the clone-makers can do it almost as well at a lower price. Such is the lesson of the marketplace: Apple just can't get through the Gates.

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well tells you how to protect

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helped thousands in Britain.



Jo Brand's week

Americans are always speering ir pathetic attempts to deal with extremes of weather in this try. We have no air conditioning e summer and we fall apart in the er. So what a joy it was to see it this week hoist by their own rd under several feet of snow, eploughs buried, flights cancelled smug grins wiped off faces. The positive thing that has come out of for our friends across the Atlantic at the crime figures have meted to zilch. Superman is indant. Batman can go home. The little homicidal, psychopathic is are cold. Someone get their s off them and pray for another

3

women shortlists appear to : bitten the dust, and mainly suse of the thwarted political itions of two male Labour didates, who were not prepared to their own careers for the sake of

his is a good lesson for life. How n altruistic men do you know who aside their own needs for the sake thers? All right, there are some, but he whole, up until now, it has been omen who made the sacrifices. and don't give me that old guff ut the law. We women would not n have got the vote if a few of our der hadn't chained themselves to ings or knocked the odd iceman's helmet off. The only blem with all-women shortlists is t they don't extend to every istimency in the country.

always thought golf clubs must very tedious places, so I bet tyone at the Dewstow Golf Club uldn't believe their luck when ampion golfer Philomena Vaughan ached a Mr Price off his bar stool, er he had allegedly touched her up. lat'll keep them going at the 19th le for a good few years, I reckon.



Mr Price's argument is that he innocently picked a cigarette end off

Mrs Vaughan's cardigan.
It reminded me of an incident I was involved in several years ago, when a bloke pinched my bum in a pub. I should have held fire, but I'm afraid I didn't and chinned him rather weakly. However, he was very drunk and staggered, hit his head, fell, and went out like a light, which made my punch look a lot more impressive than it actually was. Still, no one ever tried it on with me again in that particular pub.

Princess Diana has been off visiting the homeless again, this time taking her two boys with her. They must have been very fed up, having just come back from a sking holiday with Dad. Apparently the Princess wants William and Harry to see the other side of life in preparation for their future roles. She must be a lot more pessimistic than the rest of the country about the future of the monarchy if she thinks the two princes are going to end up living on the streets.

An NHS trust recently paid £1,700 to bring a doctor's pet Rottweiler



agree to work here. Apparently the brain drain has put paid to the chances of an anaesthetist of his calibre already being available in the country. I find that difficult to believe. However, given the way that Rottweilers tend to behave, it sounds as if the health service managers are creating more work for their staff. Employing a doctor with an accompanying Rottweiler is like phoning the Samaritans and finding Michael Portillo on the end



The anaesthetist's best friend

Tack the two words "with attitude" on to anything and what you tend to get is vacuous tosh. We in the Carlton television area are currently being

treated to late night "television with attitude" consisting of programmes like God's Gift in which several charm-free yobbos perform various activities to a room full of squealing women in an attempt to discover which one of them is God's gift to women. The one who wins gets to go on a date with a woman from the audience and there follows a slightlyruder-than-Blind-Date film of their

experiences.

From what I saw, most of the blokes did in fact think they were God's gift, so it might be better at the end of the show for all the women in the studio to abuse and humiliate them. That's what I'd call television with attitude.

Hillary Clinton, who long ago took on the mantle of a "ballcruncher" because she can string a sentence together and has a job, looks like she is getting Bill into trouble because of her dodgy past. The pair of them are both on shaky ground at the moment, Bill for sexual harassment, Hillary for lying (Pd prefer it the other way round). If this unpopularity continues it looks possible that Senator Bob (put everyone on the) Dole might even win for the Republicans in November.

It makes me wonder if there is anyone in politics at all who does not have some sort of skeleton in the cupboard, or under a motorway somewhere. Why don't they just write it into the constitution as a requirement, to save time and money in court? A White House aide is reported to have said Bill Clinton would quite like to punch the distinguished newspaper columnist who accused Hillary of being "a congenital liar". This doesn't bode too well for future delicate global negotiations. Still, if Bill turns out to be a bit of a perv, what's a bit of Actual Bodily Harm tacked on going to matter?

Exciting News for IBS Sufferers

has just been released featuring who often had to crawl up the Dr. Peter Whorhall, Britain's stairs to bed because the sympleading authority on Irritable toms were so severe and how Bowel Syndrome (IBS).

sands get relief from the agony of IBS. If you suffer from any of the following symptoms you owe it to yourself to get a copy of this video:

Bloating ... Bowel irregular-ity ... Gas ... Feeling tired and lethargic ... Belching ... Sensation of not emptying after bowel movement ... Headache .. Coated tongue IBS is a common problem

afflicting a large percentage of the population. Despite the vast magnitude of this affliction it is not widely known or talked about. Many people don't want to admit they have bowel problems - as a result they keep silent about their distress and often go through life

feeling very lonely.
Once you view this highly informative 35 minute video in the privacy of your own home you'll discover that there are treatments that work. These included natural treatments that have been used in Britain for several years that you can start to use the minute you finish watching this fascinating video. You will also learn:

 The impact of anxiety, stress and food.

The real facts on eating wheat, milk and eggs.

The significance of fibre in

your diet. Whether IBS is an inherited condition.

In this invaluable video Dr. Whorwell explains the natural treatments that have brought relief to thousands of people who suffered IBS distress.

How an oil in capsule form, stores, helped 50 per cent of Why no one course of treatment will help everyone.

It tells you all about the ments she now leads a normal advances that are helping thou- life. You'll hear about people who virtually stayed on the toilet all day long, and others who had bowel movements only every several weeks. In this revolutionary video Dr.

Whorwell reveals: The importance of proper

diagnoses. The real truth about yoga and hypnosis.

How a simple mental exercise can affect the inner workings of your system. The facts on drugs that relax the bowel muscles.

How peppermint oil is used for IBS discomfort. Why increased fibre can be only minimally helpful and

somerimes makes it worse. How some foods may help in relieving IBS symptoms.

One food that made 50 per cent of IBS sufferers worse. The truth about acupuncture, herbalism and homeopathy.

£19.95 - it's worth every penny of that and more. But with this special offer you can have a copy of this video for only £14.95. The video is available for a limited time only and is being offered on a "first come first served basis" while sup-

The video comes with a full 90-day money-back guarantee. You have nothing to lose and so much to gain. Order your copy now - TODAY.

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Blair and Clarke: are they by chance related?

No politician shifts a society single-handed, by sheer force of personality. The trick is to spot the trend, sense the mood of a society, capture it, mould it, describe it, and then claim the credit for it.

That is what Margaret Thatcher did in the Eighties. In an era that saw the world opening up to global competition, her advocacy of free markets, privatisation and lower taxation were of the moment and defined that moment. As a result. "Thatcherism" gained hegemony in the country and eventually succeeded in converting her political opponents in the process. It spread throughout the Anglo-Saxon world, Europe, Asia and the post-Communist states. This was an extraordinarily successful exercise in divin-

ing and appropriating the Zeitgeist.

But what next? The struggle to differentiate Britain's main political parties - creating blue or red water between them - demonstrates the lack of a fresh Big Idea. We are halfway through the Nineties, with no new map to plot our course.

This week Tony Blair and (making a comebuck) Margaret Thatcher set about changing all that. They offered themselves as cartographers of the decade. The Labour leader went to Singapore and sent back a message that a "stakeholder society was the way forward for Britain. Meanwhile, Baroness Thatcher returned to the legacy of her guru. Keith Joseph, and set out her two key ideas for the Nineties: shrinking the state and creating an anti-European Little England.

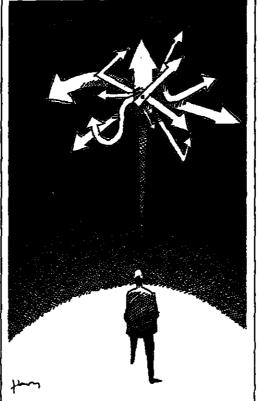
These ideas are desperately vague. It is hard to know what a stakeholder society means: Mr Blair, perhaps deliberately, has done little to

resolve the confusion. It is just as difficult to know how Lady Thatcher would achieve her ends, which have until now been beyond British politicians. In power, she herself committed Britain to its present involvement with Europe and failed to reduce the level of national income spent by the state.

Yet vagueness is not necessarily fatal to new ideas. When Margaret Thatcher took office in 1979, she did not have a grand plan; she had a basic set of principles that chimed with popular opinion and were to underpin the specific poli-cies of the following decade. The vital question is: do any of these ideas, or aspects of them, strike a chord today? In 10 years time, will they, like Eighties Thatcherism, be big enough to label an era?

Mr Blair's stakeholder society, for all its haziness, certainly resonates. Commentators have been intrigued by the word. The notion of everyone having a stake in society makes sense. It seems to describe an inclusive country, in which everyone has roots and a say over what happens. We need these notions at a time when competition and globalisation are tearing apart the glue that holds society together.

Jobs for life and the traditional welfare state are both under threat. They are increasingly seen as expensive luxuries at a time when flexible workforces and low taxation, financing a mini-mal state, are said to be the key to maintaining competitiveness. As a result, social cohesion vital for stability and economic productivity - is in danger as crime rises and an underclass of the disadvantaged and disaffected develops. Britain.



ing a humane society in a global era.

But there is plenty of suspicion that the stake-holder idea is no more than a repackaging of failed Labour policies. It invokes the idea of empowering groups or individuals who have claim to be included in decision-making. But if Mr Blair merely intends to reinvigorate the power of trade unions and other institutions that ran the corporate state of the Seventies, then he has made a big mistake. Indeed, even if this was not intention, Mr Blair may have made a political error in resurrecting Labour's old ghosts.

He has also, by implication, associated him-

self with a body of literature about stakehold-ing in companies that says businesses should be run not only in the interests of shareholders, but of customers, employees, consumers and sup-pliers. This may sound wonderful in theory, but over-regulation could suffocate business and enterprise in much the same way as Labour's last failed exercise in economic micro-management - nationalisation.

In short, stakeholding may have nothing to do with the trends of the time, which are towards deregulation, free markets, individualism and increased competitiveness. But there is one version that might catch on, namely the notion that everyone should have their own individual stake in the welfare state. That could mean compulsory saving for state-overseen pensions schemes, vouchers for education and perhaps even new ways of establishing rights to treatment in the NHS.

If this is what Mr Blair means, then he may

along with other countries, needs a way of build- | be on to a Big Idea, albeit a controversial one. that could prove politically impossible to implement. It would convert the welfare state into a system that was socially inclusive, but did not necessarily guarantee equality and which paid out more on the basis of lifetime contribution than need. It would represent a marriage of choice with collectivism, of self-reliance with state support, while giving people a greater sense of owning their entitlements. And it would permit a shift away from conventional taxation. to claims by the state being carmarked for specific

purposes.

If this is the direction in which Mr Blair is moving, there are good grounds for believing that his ideas will have a wider resonance. Indeed he will find plenty of fellow travellers on the Tory left. Much of what Mr Blair has to say about social inclusion and economic pragmatism echoes the language used by Kenneth Clarke. The pace of change has created fears and uncertainties among men and women in every walk of life. A strong welfare state has an important role in reducing these fears." So said the Chancellor in his Mais Lecture 18 months ago.

In short, the chief British political divide may not be between Labour and the Torics, but between the Blair/Clarke philosophy - Blarkism and Margaret Thatcher (and her acolytes), who this week made her bid to be the architect of the next decade, just as she was of the last.

Who will win? We cannot be sure. But the ideas that will triumph and eventually engulf all parties will be those that best ensure our surviva() in today's global, competitive market.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Sir: The crisis of beds and

staffing in the NHS in recent

days has been precipitated by a

dramatic increase in the num-

ber of emergency admissions,

and the reason for this is not

clear. What is clear is that

many of the difficulties in

responding to this crisis result

from the changes in the health

service over the past few years.

and their distress.

HUGH J. THOMSON

Consultant Surgeon

and again.

Birmingham

11 January

Yours.

A&E wards: conditions that take a toll on doctors' morale | Heaven is a place on earth

From Dr Julian Eyears Sir: I strongly disagree with your assertion that junior dociors should be "press-ganged" into working in Accident and Emergency departments (lead-

ing article. 11 January).
I spent six months in two casualty departments in south-east London and I would rather resign my profession than do it again.

Notwithstanding being twice assaulted by patients I was trying to help, having the door of my treatment room kicked in by a man angered by the fact that my dying patient had jumped the queue ahead of his broken finger, and my writing table taken away by hospital management on the grounds that the destruction of the major factors leading to a shortage of accident and emergency junior doctors in England – the great shortage the doctors were "spending too much time writing", I was allowed two weekends out of 11 free, and was almost always

working anti-social hours. The stark reality is that not enough doctors wish to work in the NHS anymore, especially in A&E. A significant number of my contemporaries have been so disillusioned that they have left medicine altogether.

Your leader demonstrates a public misconception; that doctors are some sort of breed

apart of medical soldiers, ready to be drafted into any situation. Doctors are actually human beings. They have loved ones, emotions and outside lives. They don't want to work in A&E because the conditions are frequently so inhuman that they take an unacceptable toll on their private and professional lives.

Yours faithfully. JULIAN EYEARS London, SW2

From Dr E. E. J. Martin Sir: In your leading article (11 of doctors training to be general practitioners.

The Royal College of General Practitioners encourages GPs in training to do six months in A&E. However, the number of doctors training to become GPs has fallen by nearly 25 per cent over the past few years.

Recently, more surgery is carried out on a day-care basis. with a patient being discharged on the same day as their operation. Large psychiatric hospi-tals are being closed up and

down the country. In some cases, patients are cared for at home under the "hospital at home" scheme. When these patients are discharged the work that was previously done in the hospital is added to the

tasks of the GP.

At the same time, the GP is having to get involved in purchasing the care for his patients. If one adds to this the increased requirements for health screening, the flood of paper now required by the Government about all our activities, the great increase in litigation against GPs and the increased demand for services at weck-ends and at nights, it is clear to the limit. This is not so that the job of a GP has both when it comes to people's changed and expanded hugely.

Young doctors see this great and accidents, emergencies increase in work required of and uncertainties. There has in the profession, and they decide not to enter family medicine. It is this lack of family doctors in training which is perhaps the most important factor in the understaffing of our accident departments. Yours faithfully,

E.E.J. MARTIN Bedford

From Mr Hugh J. Thomson From Mr Norman Myers

Sir: In your leading article "The church's empty hell" (11 January), you refer to the erroneous impression of Hell as "a place of endless torment". If Heaven is a place of ultimate being for and with others. could Hell be, as T. S. Eliot said, the place of only self -hence of ultimate torment through total emptiness?

In similar style, could it be The NHS is being turned into a National Health Busithat the next world, whether up or down, will not be so very difness. To run a business suc-cessfully there must be no ferent from this one? If, as is slack in the system: every sometimes suggested. Heaven is peaches and cream, there will employee and every piece of be scant scope for such basic attributes as compassion. empathy and related forms of fellow feeling. Equally to the health. There are epidemics point, if one cannot make onebecomes adept at making onedealing with human beings self miserable through self-pre-If the Government will not occupation here, might that also prove fine training for the learn this lesson, the present

crisis will be repeated again next world? After all, if we pray "Thy kingdom come on Earth and recall that The kingdom of Heaven is within you", then could there be similar potential for the kingdom of Hell? To

this extent, it should not really matter to us here whether there is another life ahead: a life lived to the full, and in the one way that some believe makes that feasible, is surely its own reward.

Yours. NORMAN MYERS Honorary Visiting Fellow Green College Oxford 12 January

From Dr Richard Ladle Sir: Contrary to the views of the Church of England's doctrine commission ("Church elders pour cold water on hellfire and damnation", 11 January) many people, as yet uninfected by Christianity, look forward to the "annihilation" self happy in the here and now, at the end of a busy life and GPs, with no increase in income to be a spare capacity to cope and a lowering of public esteem with the unpredictability of time around? And if one tence (discorporated or not) as tence (discorporated or not) as purgatorial.

The commissioners' opinions seem nothing more than whistling in the dark while the monster of modern science breathes heavily in the corner of the room. Yours (un)faithfully,

deficient?

Bondage, Up Yours' fame) to devote themselves to Krishna

consciousness. Only John Lydon et al have apparently

betrayed their art to become

'accomplished musicians".

Next year they go on tour with

What will their act be like?

As I am almost exactly a con-

temporary of theirs, I am

painfully aware of my increas-

ing limitations. Pogo-ing is

technically feasible, but can

only be done in five-second

bursts with 10-minute rest

periods, to allow the cartilage

to pop back. Gobbing, too, is

not what it was: age dries up

the juices a bit, and it would take an awful lot of hawking to

summon up anything worth-while. Take it from me, boys,

at 40, anarchic sexuality has to

be carefully organised — a

case of Try And Find The

Bollocks.

But what is truly awful about

the Sex Pistols' return is that it is a return. Unlike, say, the

Rolling Stones or Bowie, who

have kept at it and developed, Rotten & co are attempting to be their former selves, unchanged. Going on is OK, it's

all their old hits.

RICHARD J. LADLE London, NI 11 January

The blood of

From Dr Forest Hansen Sir: Having regularly donated blood in America during much of our adult lives, my wife and I were surprised and offended by Louise Jury's contrast (Section Two: "Death by a thousand cuts", 11 January) of British donors with those in the US, where donors participate ...

for money". Only a small minority donate blood for money - mostly the unemployed in large cities. Even that number has probably diminished in recent years because of HIV and hepatitis

contamination. The great majority are like British donors, giving "out of the goodness of their hearts" and expecting that the blood will be used in their home areas for those in need. Regular blood drives are held at colleges and universities as well as in business offices, and greater numbers of people typically respond with donations in

emergencies. There, as here, the giving of blood is one of those all too rare acts of pure altruism. Yours sincerely, FOREST HANSEN Aivechurch.

Post-natal escape: sleep and bed

Worcestershire

11 January

From Ms Mary North Sir: Regarding the continuing correspondence about shack ling pregnant and post-natal women prisoners: after the births of my three children, I was grateful to be wheeled back to the ward, because

The only escape on my mind was to a clean bed and a good sleep. Yours sincerely.

MARY NORTH Wirksworth, Derbyshire II January

AARONOVITCH Hell on Earth

The week has come to a bad end. Hard upon the news Consider this nightmare. The whole country indulges in a that the remaining Sex Pistols 1977 reunion, forced to resume are making a comeback after 18 the roles and lives we all led years, and just before Mrs then. Except that we cannot Thatcher animated her audibecome vounger, or shed the ence of posthumous Keith experiences of the intervening Joseph admirers, came the years. So the elderly Jim Church's disavowal of punitive Callaghan presides over a tottering cabinet, including Denis Healey, Michael Foot Hell. Can it be true, I wondered that Johnny Rotten and Kenneth Baker are both to and Shirley Williams. An escape eternal punishment? No embittered David Owen is demons with pliers. no Foreign Sécretary. Boschian monsters by whom to Margaret leads the Tories.

none of the fates which one had 1977 incarnation, but as she is mentally stored up for the now, with recessive gums thyroidal eye-bulge and ar offensive and the morally enormous chip on her shoulder. No threat of damnation will In Washington, a decrepit Jimmy Carter is just beginning therefore prevent the coming his stint in the White House. together of Britain's most noto-As if this weren't bac rious punk band - even if God has already taken care of the complex bassist, Sid Vicious. enough, the whole country is invited to hold street parties in a ghastly post-Diana parody of The other hands of the era are the Queen's Silver Jubilee. long gone, the young men to British Leyland makes cars. a become journalists and wheelpontificating Geoff Boycott leads England out against the wrights, the girls to take up veterinary nursing, or (as in the case of Poly Styrene, of "Oh Aussies, tubby 40-plus foot-

> creaks her way to victory over Chrissie Evert at Wimbledon. A wrinkled, balding Woody Allen directs Diane Keaton in a comedy of sexual manners setin New York and featuring relationships with very young women - so no change there. Larry Holmes fights George Forman for the heavyweight

ballers with Scouser mous-

taches pantingly contest the Cup Final, and Virginia Wade

championship of the world. Sorry, that's a bit far-fetched. I am transported back to a grimy room in a student house in Ladbroke Grove, living off Birds Eye individual shepherd's pies and arguing about the to-let-cleaning rota. From time to time I am visited by various girl friends whom I used and abused in those days. Exceptthat now they have children and . therapists, complain about the cleanliness of the sheets, talk about what they want out of sex and fail to fade away on

No. Johnny. No. Maggie. There can be no going back. To revisit the past, knowing what: we now know, that, surely whatever the bishops say would be Hell.

Cattle at the cost | Paternoster Square revisited of native species human kindness

From Mr J. A. Tunner Sir: I was concerned by your report "Mad cows? Not out of Africa?" (10 January). The production of beef in the fragile arid regions of southern Africa where rinderpest, tsetse fly and foot-and-mouth demand the segregation of cattle from wildlife (which have natural immunity to some diseases) has necessitated the construction of vast fences which prevent wildlife having access to their traditional water, grazing and migration routes.

This has resulted in terrible suffering to indigenous grazing animals and has decimated some species. Additionally, the degradation of natural grassland caused by livestock grazing is evident to anybody flying over Botswana. Furthermore, water management in Namibia hy open canal forms a lethal barrier to movement of animals

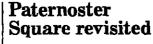
While British butchers may wish to avoid British beef because of their fear of BSE. perhaps the vegetarianism of butcher Ken Bell's grandchildren is a far better solution to the problem than his demanding Namibian beef. Yours faithfully. J. A. TIMMER London, SE19

How to strip like a dream

From Mr N. Mescalfe Sir: After failing, for over six months, to remove wallpaper from my house using a steam stripper and chemical wallpaper stripper. I had given up

However, after experimenting. I discover the most effective cure is wallpaper paste! One coat, left for 20 minutes. and the wallpaper is removed like a dream.

Yours incredulously, N. METCALFE Sheffield 11 January



Sir: When the proposed scheme for the redevelopment of Paternoster Square (Section Two, 8 January) first emerged, I warmed to it. I visited the exhibition in the crypt of St Paul's and thought it seemed warm and humane, in contrast to the proposals by Sir Richard Rogers and others which seem rather tired and formulaic. I was under the impression, probably incorrectly, that it would to some extent recreate the original street pattern, and maybe some of the atmosphere that existed before the Blitz.

Since then, I have become aware of the true nature of the scheme. Far from being a genuine and people orientated development, it is in reality a hulking steel-framed office block, a patronising transat-lantic sham designed to get around the mediocre tastes of Prince Charles, and a public which won't be overjoyed at yet another office scheme.

The question is what is to be done instead. It would be nice to establish the pre-Blitz atmosphere, but this is not easy. This sort of thing has to grow of its own accord, and any development must be of quality due to its siting. Maybe the answer is something along the lines of the current proposal. but without the sham and the tweeness, and with a diverse function.

Yours faithfully. Julian Bassett London, SW2

Sir; I have a personal interest in the development of Paternoster Square as I worked as a young wenager on the original development in the Sixties, and, as it was my first job in the con-



Carl Laubin's painting of the proposed redevelopment of Paternoster Square

tural design 1,500 years after

Rome as they were 1,300 years

after. Their past use in the

British Isles has shown them to

be ideally suited to the urban

environments and as adaptable

to domestic use as to civic.

struction industry, I had never seen anything so vast being built. At the time, it was obviously described as modern architecture and the shape of the future, but, even as a young lad, I thought it should have complemented St Paul's Cathedral. As St Paul's is one of our major tourist attractions, it would make the surrounding area that much more attractive if the new development and St Paul's could he thought of as one. Yours sincerely, B. W. TULLETT

From Mr Roger Houghton Sir: The fault of the Paternoster Square scheme is not its neo-classicism but its attempt to hide behind a superficial and poorly executed layer of The classical orders are as Cathedral, provide a perfect

London, E13

From Ms Grace H. Farmer Sir: I do not think that the proposed development should be allowed to go ahead. The proposed scheme represents a

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

rours faithfully,

ROGER HOUGHTON

mish-mash of pastiche architecture and would not enhance the beauty of the Cathedral. By far the best solution for the site would be to knock down all the buildings and create a park. A nicely landscaped open space would enhance the

relevant a basis for architec- setting for one of the country's gems, and give the City of London a much-needed park. Yours sincerely. **GRACE FARMER**

> Sir: Has anyone thought of consulting two pertinent docu-1. Wren's designs for the setting/immediate surroundings of his masterpiece, which would, surely, include open space

From Mr Robin Miller

around the entire structure as well as, I believe, wide, ceremonial stairs to the Thames. ideal for state occasions. 2. The plan, produced during the Second World War, for the post-war reconstruction of cen-

tral London. Yours sincerely, ROBIN MILLER tottering was as much as I could manage.

(Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independenl.cn.uk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters EDITOR: Charles Wilson DEPUTY EDITOR: Martin Jacques MANAGING EDITOR: Colin Hughes Section Two EDITOR: Charles Leadbraier Sectionary Libroric David Rabson EXECUTIVE NEWS ENTOR: Michael Williams Assistant EDITOR: Simon Keleer NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLA, BUARD OF PRILATORS: Land Healt (chairmant). Lord Borrie, Juan Luis Cebrian, Ben Bradice, Javier Diez de Polanen, Brendan Hopkine, David Munigomery, Andreas Whittam Smith Attacknow, Directors: Jeremy Reed

going back that is so appalling. QUOTE UNQUOTE

There is only one bright spot. Job insecurity is at its worst among Tory MPs and councillors as they watch their government tottering to the grave - Lord Healey, Labour peer

Once you have swam through the filth spewed out by the Conservative Central Office, you find you're in clean water and you can swim freely and say what you think - Emma Nicholson, encouruging others to defect from the Tories to the Liberal Democrats

The best thing everyone can do today is roll right over and go back to sleep - Radio announcer in New York City, where residents awoke to snow banks up to six feet deep

It's so cold you can see the lies coming from a politician's mouth -David Letterman. US chat show host, on the Washington blizzard Come back into place! I have a hip that hops out sometimes Baroness Robson of Kiddington, Liberal Democrat, rising to speak in a Lords debate on alternative medicine

As far as I can tell by their views on European federalism, such people's creed would be better described as 'No Nation Conservatism' - Lady Thatcher on 'One Nation' Tories

As any taxi driver will tell you, whether you liked her or not, at least, you knew where you were with Margaret Thatcher - Tony Blair

(150 Mg

Stung by a fly on the wall

A sad misjudgement has marred a fine term as head of the Royal Opera, argues Polly Toynbee

No one ever likes the image of themselves as revealed in flyon-the-wall documentaries. Hundreds of hours of film are freezedried into moments of tension, friction, anger or anxiety, with scant context or explanation. The House, a six-part documentary about the Royal Opera House, starts on Tuesday on BBC2. The wonder of it is that a canny, seasoned old televi-sion hand such as Jeremy Isaacs ever let the cameras backstage.

But those who know him understand precisely why he did it. It was a last, ill-judged bid to set right the one great failure of his eight years as General Director at Covent Garden: to make the Opera House beloved of the people. He wanted popular sentiment to swell with pride at this national treasure. Instead, those who presume to speak for the masses - the tabloids and the Terry Dickses - continue to

heap contimely upon it.

He thought people should see
the desperate backstage struggle to get shows on - and we do. Behind the plush, the place looks like the boiler room of a 50-year-old banana boat. Indeed, the drama of finding an unknown Carmen within hours of a crucial first night as the diva falls sick does convey the terror and the thrill of the whole bizarre enterprise.

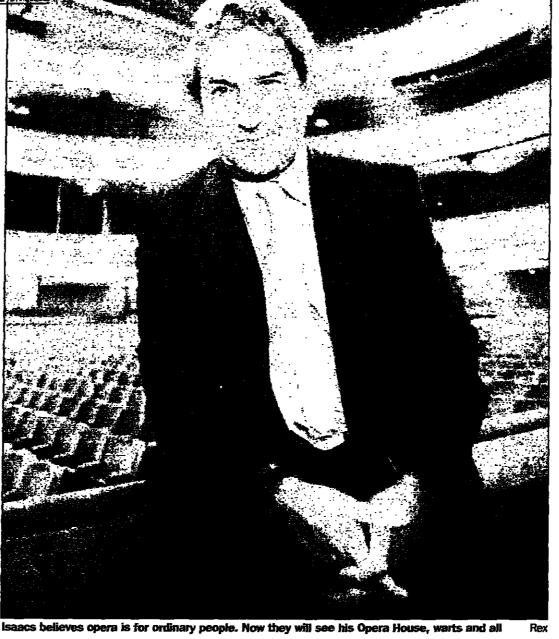
But if Isaacs imagined this film would inspire admiration for a noble endeavour stretched to breaking point on a subsidy half that of the world's other great opera houses, he should have known better. The character who will be remembered is not the the monstrous new public affairs director, who sacks everyone in sight and looks like an angry android in a Paul Smith suit.

This week Isaacs bumped into John Birt and Sir Christopher Bland dining in a restaurant. Birt asked him why he didn't like the film. Between gritted teeth, Isaacs parroted a well-known Birtism: "Because it suffers from

a bias against understanding."
The trouble with fly-on-the-wall television is that incident always wins out over analysis. Part of the film focuses on rows over directors and designers overspending their budgets. In unguarded moments, Isaacs and his team display an apparently cavalier attitude towards money. Crisis follows the near-catastrophic hiring of one designer to do a huge new ballet at the same time as a new opera. A great deal of shouting in the boardroom ensues.

Aggrieved, Isaacs feels viewers might understand a little more and condemn a little less if there had been more emphasis on the financial facts: both productions mademoney back. For the past three years the Opera House has broken even, and the £3.6m deficit Isaacs inherited has been reduced to £500,000.

When Isaacs leaves his post next year at 65, he bequeaths his successor an energised enterprise with a reputation for innovation and daring. An outfit once stale and mediocre, down on its artistic beam ends, was shambling its way through 20-yearold Bohèmes and Toscus in tired routines. The English National Opera and the regional companies were the



they can't see them properly. He curses the Sun and all those who patronise "ordinary" people by assuming them to be cloth-eared philistines. Don't they all know "Toreador" from Carmen, "Nessun Dorma", Mozart, Verdi, Puccini and a dozen other favourites? Hasn't the success of the three tenors shown how many "ordinary"

His most passionate supporters are those who have worked for him

happening places, while the Opera House reeked of mothball-scented furs. Now the ENO is in artistic troudark critical clouds. True, Isaacs has presided over some spectacular turkeys - but only a few, no more than the flip side of bravery.

He wanted to make opera accessible, When he introduced surtitles - simultaneous translations projected above the stage - the stuffed shirts complained of the vulgarity. Nowadays the only complaints come from those in seats where

people love opera, given the chance? He is proud of the work the opera house has done in speaks lyrically of opera's transforming power.

All very well, but just how accessible can you be when you are touching people for £260 for top tickets? He is ashamed at charging some of the world's highest prices. Two or three performances a year broadcast on hig screens to a packed Covent Garden piazza make only a minor dent in the

elitist nature of the business. This makes him edgy and uneasy. From a Labour-voting middle-class Hillhead family, he is the son of a GP mother and jeweller father and a man of the left, somewhat left of New Labour. He is not even slightly seduced by the ritzy, glitzy world of the royal box.

He made his name in 1974 with The World At War, a 26-part blockbuster history of the Second World War, which reached audiences of 15 million. As the first head of Channet 4 in 1980, he opened up the institutionalised world of television to outsiders, new groups, experimenters and some lunatics. The result was a remarkable injection of energy. By helping to devise a system where the funding came from ITV, irrespective of ratings, it

some outrageous things to flourish. So his move to the most establishment post in the arts world came as a shock. Why should this naturally rebellious man choose frock-coated opera? Because he is driven to spread his own passion for opera and ballet to a wider public. Alas, it has been a mission thwarted by an impossible dilemma: he spends millions of tax-payers' hard-earned

money, yet not millions enough to let in most ordinary tax-payers at prices they can afford. Those who come after him may fare better, for everyone expects the Lottery funding rules to change to allow money not just for buildings but to fund pro-ductions and cheap seats. What will this television docu-

mentary do for Isaacs's reputation? No justice, say his friends, defensively. It doesn't help that he looks like a rumpled, slightly-the- worsefor-wear Beethoven. Or that he always says what he thinks, straight out. The scenes of apparent chaos and in-fighting tell only part of the story. What artistic enterprise would ever get on to the stage in an atmosphere of total calm, harmony and managerial efficiency?" wonders one seasoned observer.

porters are those who have worked for him, both when he was head of Channel 4 and at the Opera House. His detractors are among the boards and governors he has worked for, which is, on the whole, the best way round: "He lacks some essential political skills for a job like this," says one. But another, who worked under him at Channel 4 retaliates: "A complete hero!"

One nation, divided

Lady Thatcher has got Tory and Liberal traditions in a bit of a muddle, says Vernon Bogdanor

(1845), "our Queen reigns over the greatest nation that ever existed."
"Which nation?" asks Morley, the Chanist, "for she reigns over two."
"You speak of..." said Egremont hesitatingly. "THE RICH AND THE POOR."

Disraeli in the 1840s begged the Tories to combat the market policies of the Liberals which were sundering all social ties. In the 20th century, by contrast, One Nation Conservatism has seen state socialism, not liberalism, as the enemy. Anthony Eden prefigured Margaret Thatcher in championing a property-owning democracy to combat doctrines of class conflict. For it, there was no war to fight; nobody need be afraid of losing. In the Fifties, a One Nation Group was formed by Iain Macleod, Angus Maude, Reginald Maudling and Enoch Powell to press for equality of opportunity as the alternative to socialist bureaucracy and controls. More recently, however, the term "One Nation" has come to indicate coded hostility to Thatcherism and sympathy for the gentler Conservatism of the Macmillan/Heath era.

ln her Keith Joseph Memor ial Lecture on Thursday night, Margaret Thatcher attacked One Nation Toryism as a betrayal of the nation. That is perhaps curious, Leaders such as Disraeli and Eden were hardly noted for their cosmopolitanism, while Harold Macmillan sought to enter the European Community after a hard-headed calculation of Britain's interests and only after other diplomatic possibilities had been exhausted. His conception of Europe, moreover, was akin to that of Thatcher rather than that

of Jacques Delors. Besides, it was Margaret Thatcher herself who, as Prime Minister, turned the European Community irrevocably away from a "Europe des patries" when she signed the Single European Act, greatly extending majority voting - something with more radical effects that anything in the Maastricht treatly.

Thatcher identified Nation" with state interventionism. The origins of Thatcherism. the former Prime Minister declared, are to be found not in the ideas of Disraeli but in 19thcentury liberalism of the kind championed by Gladstone.

Yet Gladstone would be a very awkward recruit to the Thatcherite cause. If the Grand Old Man held to any fundamental belief, it was faith in "The

"Say what you will," Disraeli's Concert of Europe". Like the hero Egremont declares in "Sybil" Liberal Democrats today, he would have been a strong supporter of European Union as the best means of overcoming national rivalries.

Gladstone was a strong sup-porter also of devolution, declaring that societies were held together through "recognition of the distinctive qualities of the separate parts of great countries". He even favoured the creation of what he called "inter-mediate bodies" - regional parliaments, which John Major has called "barmy". Here at least, Margaret Thatcher and the Prime Minister can agree. But it is difficult to regard their position as being at all Gladstonian.

Historians will probably see the Eighties as an era of Thatcherite dominance. Yet, in her two landslide elections – 1983 and 1987 – the Conservatives were unable to secure more than 42 per cent of the vote.

Margaret Thatcher found herself presiding over two nations

Nearly three-fifths of the population were hostile to Margaret Thatcher even at the height of

Thatcherism, appealed more to the south of ngland than to Scotland or Wales or the industrial conurbations. By 1987, the Conservatives, despite their majority of 102 in the Commons, were able to secure only 10 of the 72 seats in Scotland, and eight of the 38 in Wales. In the great conurbations - Bradford, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield - the Conserva-

tives won just three of the 43 seats. Thatcherism was perhaps as much a consequence as a cause of socio-economic and cultural changes that long prefigured the Eighties, as Britain came to be polarised along geographical lines. Margaret Thatcher found "One nations divided as much by geography as by class. The upwardly mobile, thrusting and ambitious nation living in the South-cast provided her landslide majorities. For the other nation, she never seemed to care very much.

> The writer is reader in government, Oxford University: His Essay on Politics and the Constitution' is being published by Dartmouth

If it's American snow, it's gotta be big

Rupert Cornwell reflects on a week of chaos, cold and unaccustomed quiet in the US capital

For me, the first intimation came exactly a week ago in the departure lounge at Zurich airport, as we returned from a skiing holiday. "Seems there's a big storm coming to the Eastern US," said someone, perusing the International Herald Tribune. Sure, I thought, another phoney Washington weather drama. Only this time the panic-mongers were right.

Back in DC that frigid Saturday afternoon the atmosphere was eerie, nervous yet fatalistic, as if

an irresistible invading army was at the city's gates. People were glancing intermittently at a still, leaden sky. When I went to buy a few provisions, the supermarket was jammed. For the first time I bought some rock salt, a five-pound bag, which the blurb claimed could dissolve 48 times its weight in snow at a temperature of 30F. That should do the trick, I thought, A child taking on the Wehrmacht with a pop-gun would have stood a better chance.

The United States is a country of meteorological superlatives. In five years I have reported on the most destructive hurricane in modern American history (the 155mph Andrew, of August 1992, which caused \$20bn of damage), the Great Flood of the summer of 1993 (the Midwest's worst for 100 years), plus droughts, heatwaves, tornadoes, and sundry other acts of God, And now the Blizzard of '96.

The misfortune of Washington and the Mid-Atlantic region in winter is to be point of collision between warm air moving north from the Gulf of Mexico and arctic blasts descending from Canada, all mixed with plenty of moisture from the Atlantic, Thus are assembled the ingredients for a smorgasbord of precipitations: snow, freezing rain, sleet and hail, or various combinations of them. Most miserable of all is the ice storm, a Washington speciality, which in full spate produces a sinister rustling like wind through dry leaves. It turns roads and pavements into skating rinks and causes power failures by the score. Thus far, the Blizzard of '96 has generated only fine powdery snow. But never, even during the four years I lived in Moscow, have I

seen so much of it in a single helping. It started to fall around midnight on Saturday. It continued, soft and silent as a veil, through Sunday and half of Monday. By the end, in my corner of the city, 23 inches had fallen - almost two feet of the stuff, and more where it had been piled up by gusts of 35mph. Not for an instant did it stop, for 36 hours. Should the second storm, unfolding as I write, live up to billing, all records could be eclipsed, including that of 28 sured three feet of snow on the ground at his Mount Vernon estate.

Even if this is not the storm of the century already, it's close. Philadelphia's 31 inches between Sunday and Monday was the largest 24-hour snowfall in its history. New York's 22 inches was its third largest (100 million tons fell on the city, according to CNN). It was the third or fourth highest here in the capital. The 20-hour shutdown of Boston airport was the longest since 1978. Economic losses are climbing by billions of dollars a day. At least 100 have died as a result

Washington is peculiarly ill-equipped for such

January 1772, when George Washington mea- an ordeal. Come the first soft flakes of winter, the city fathers handle snow with the same calm and competence that British Rail brings to its commuter services. An inch or two that would not raise an eyebrow in Moscow (or New England) throws the capital of the free world into delirium tremens. These days, with the District of Columbia in receivership and possessing just a third of the functioning snow-clearing equipment of four years ago, the performance has

been even more dire than usual. Four days on from the blizzard, the bus and underground still barely work. Schools are closed. Mountains of half-cleared snow and mighty rivers of slush have turned Washington's



White-out in Washington: nearly two feet of fine, powdery snow fell in 36 hours

streets into a cross country course from the Win-

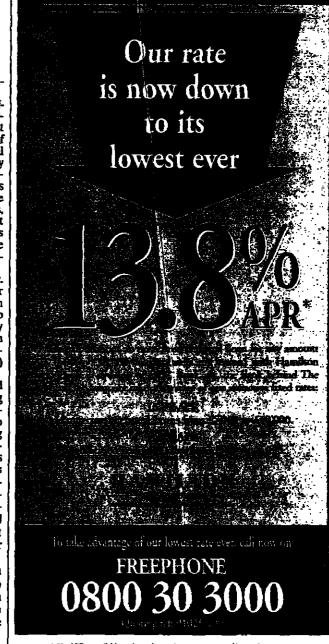
ter Olympics.
The first sensation, of course, was utterly different. That Sunday morning, the snow was therapeutic, a humbling, cleansing reassurance that there was an alternative to the frenetic pace of American life. No prospect was more beautiful than the dreaded Washington Beltway, normally a white-knuckle commuting racetrack, transformed into an empty sea of snow, the road signs poking like fragments from the *Thanic* on the ocean bed. Closer to home, not a squeal of brakes, not a single car horn was to be heard, just the quiet occasional hiss of skiers gliding past white mounds that had once been cars. The airports, too, those temples to our times, were shut. For all its technical wizardry, America was at a standstill.

But the charm of a blizzard wears off quickly. And patience wears thin with the TV weather forecasters and their glossy coiffures, spray-on smiles and professional shortcomings that no computer graphics can redeem. They completely missed, for instance, Tuesday's follow-up storm (sheepishly described afterwards as an "unanticipated high-level atmospheric disturbance")

which dumped another four inches on DC.
By Thursday, the skis were off the streets and the car was king again, the only difference being that the pedestrian's normal refuge of the pavement was unreachable, still submerged by two feet of snow. Yet the crown fits uneasily. Driving your car is fine, but where to leave it? In Washington right now, the most prized asset of all is a viable parking space. Belatedly, snow ploughs have cleared a passable corridor along the middle of the streets in my neighbourhood. But parking is a do-it-yourself and highly labour-intensive proposition. "I dug it, and I park in it," read one sign guarding a 6ft by 12ft area carved out of the surrounding tundra. Others stake out their territory with chairs and tables.

Even if you can shift the snow, where do you put it? In New York they've been dumping it into the Hudson River, but a Boston real-estate firm was less lucky when it ploughed clean snow into the harbour - only to be slapped with a \$1,000 fine for environmental pollution.

And now it's falling again. Eight inches, say the weathermen, maybe snow, maybe sleet, maybe ice, probably all three together. In Los Angeles, they're having a heatwave: the other day it was a record 87 degrees on Venice Beach. But we snowsick on the other side of the country should not get too upset. Over there, there's probably an earthquake on the way.



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THE INDEPENDENT • Saturday 13 January 1996

BUSINESS NEWS DESK; tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098 Pension funds clash in City revolution

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

Britain's powerful pension funds placed themselves on a collision course with the City's big marweight behind Stock Exchange proposals for a radical reform of share trading in London.

The pension funds, which own some 35 per cent of UK equity, support introducing automatic order-driven dealing to the top FT-SE stocks. "The investment committee would be very content to see an alternative method of dealing on the Stock Exchange, and if it is order-driven then we believe it will ofter lower prices," said the National Association of Pension

"Effectively what we are after are lower costs and an effective dealing system," said a leading insurance fund manager.

The Stock Exchange yesterday published its long-awaited consultation document about exactly what sort of order-matching dealing system is wanted by most market participants and how it should be introduced. It sets out detailed options of how the fully automatic order-driven facility, which electronically matches bids and offers, might take over from, or be combined with, London's traditional quote-driven system, whereby market-making firms use their capital to quote firm buy and sell prices for shares.

The published document differs in one important respect following the sacking last week of Michael Lawrence from his post of chief executive of the Exchange. His preference for a "hybrid", combining the two systems on the same screen, has been markedly toned down.

played an important role in Mr Lawrence's ousting, argued that this option was impractical. "Putting the two systems together on the same screen will have the inevitable effect of capital being withdrawn from the FT-SE 100. Of course investors can say they would like a choice of competing systems for the same stocks, so they can pick the cheapest. But the question is whether practitioners find it worth their while to participate in that. I think not," said a leading market maker.

The tone of the consultation document points rather to the more radical of the options, which is to replace the quotedriven system with an order-matching facility across the board for all stocks. Alongside it, however, there would be a socalled block trading facility, whereby the market makers would be able to take on and sell large blocks of shares off the market. This is the mechanism successfully operated in centres

such as New York and Paris. The document also offers the option of an order book for some stocks and a quote book for others. "Ask a fund manager and he will want order-driven for the big stocks to get cheaper dealing costs and quote-driven for small stocks to make surd he can always deal. Ask a market maker and he will want it priceisely the other way round. That is the dilemma to be overedme." said a top market maker.

Private client brokers and small irriestors have strongly urged keeping some form of market-making in the smaller stocks. The Stock Exchange said that 'small investors should benefit from cheaper dealing in popular stocks with an order-



Stalemate in transatlantic talks maintains limits on foreign stakes in American carriers



BA halts further investment in

RUSSELL HOTTEN

British Airways has abandoned plans to invest more money in USAir until the UK and US governments settle their longrunning dispute over liberalising aviation markets.

BA has until the end of January to decide whether to put another \$200m into the troubled American carrier. But it would be unable to lift its shareholding above the 25 per cent limit on foreign ownership imposed by US regulators.

The British flag-carrier has already paid \$400m for 24.6 per cent of USAir, and the option

that shareholding to 34.8 per ent. But the stalemate in the and operational alliances. negotiations to liberalise the Bermuda II treaty governing transatlantic aviation means further investment would be too

The UK government was "puzzled and disappointed" after US negotiators broke off talks last year over more access to Heathrow, Gatwick and the American domestic airline market. A Department of Transport spokesman said yesterday that no further talks were planned.

Analysis were divided over whether the UK airline should put more money into USAir nart of BA's strategy of creat-

BA's new chief executive. Robert Ayling, has not so far gone public on the future of the

relationship. But one company source said vesterday: "There is little point in us puttine more money into USAir unless we can increase our shareholding." The company has a further uption to invest \$250 within the next two years. USAir was badly hit by re-

cession in the American airline industry, but has seen its fortunes slowly improve. Last month Seth Schofield, USAir's departing chairman, said the financial position had im-company was now able to stand proved, USAir recently moved

need further money from BA. Under the Bermuda II talks Washington has refused Britain's demand to lift the foreign ownership ceiling. In turn Britain has refused the main US demand for open access to London Heathrow. The last round of talks broke up

four years of butter negotiations. Last year British Airways wrote oil half its investment in USAir, after earlier saying it would not make any additional investment until USAir's

without agreement in October.

closing another chapter in over

on its own two feet and did not back into profit as a result of cost-cutting and a generally stronger market, and has predicted it will post a profit for 1995, its first positive result since 1988.

The company made profits of \$21.6m in the third quarter, on a 10 per cent increase in revenues, from \$1.75bn to \$1.87bn. "There can be no doubt that this company is now experiencing a dramatic upturn in its financial performance." Mr Schofield said at the time.

USAir provides BA with an entry into the biggest domestic airline market in the world, and may be central to an eventual link-up with American Airlines.

Granada dividend 'falls foul of IR'

Forte yesterday cast doubt on whether a special dividend of 47p offered by Granada as part of its £3.8bn hostile takeover bid for the hotels and restaurants company would be allowed by Inland Revenue.

writes Mathew Horsman.
The criticisms, dismissed by
Granada as "mischief-making".
centred on Forte's contention that tax authorities could rule against the plan because shareholders are given an option between a dividend or cash. "We have taken tax advice

that suggests this plan may not be approved," a Forte spokesman said.

But in a statement, Granada's chief executive, Gerry Robinson, said "There is nothing that Forte has said that was not considered by us before we announced our increased offer".

The special dividend was announced last week as part of Granada's revised offer for Forte. The higher bid was worth 362p in cash per Forte share, or 373p in cash and shares. Tax-exempt institutions, including pension funds, could receive up to 385p a share because of the tax credit associated with the special dividend, Granada argued. Forte also claimed that

Granada's plan to sell up to £2bn worth of Forte's assets, including its Meridien and Exclusive hotel chains, would attract £400m in tax. Granada responded that a combination of Granada's "substantiai tax cost base" in Forte, the roll-over of gains into new expenditure and the availability of £240m in tax losses which it can carry forward would made the tax consequences of the planned

disposals insignificant.

Meanwhile. Gra Granada launched a further attack on Forte's planned share buy-back scheme, which it believes would be earnings negative on profit forecasts. It questioned whether Forte could afford its alternative generous dividend promise of 20 per cent yearly increases in each of the next three years.

Building society mergers or takeovers

1989 Abbey National - floated 1995 Cheltenham & Gloucester - taken over by Lloyds Bank

Halifax - merges with Leeds Rermanent 1996 National & Provincial

 taken over by Abbey National Halifax - to be floated in spring Woolwich - to be floated in autumn

Who's next?

Alliance & Leicester - flotaticin announcement

Nationwide - flotation annoulncement possible within next 18 months

Bradford & Bingley, Bristol & West, Portman. Britannia, Birmingham Midshires, Yorkshire - flotations may follow more society mergers or may be vulnerable to takeovers

Woolwich could face predators

NIC CICUTTI

Speculation grew in the City last night that Woolwich Building Society could be snapped up by a rival institution before its plans to become a bank are complete next year.

Potential bidders named by analysts yesterday include Royal Bank of Scotland, other high street banks, Prudential and BAT, the tobacco giant. Tim Clarke, banking analyst

at Panmure Gordon, said: "I would be surprised if a number of institutions were not currently looking into the possibility of a

takeover bid. "The announcement that

Woolwich is planning to convert our subsidiaries are in profit. Obto a bank, has raised a lot of opportunities for potential bidders. The society has effectively put

itself in play by going public.

Mr Clarke said a potential suitor would find attractions in Woolwich's mortgage lending operation, its 4 million savers and its South-east England bias. John Stewart, operations di-rector at Woolwich, said there

had been some interest by other institutions, but no serious

discussions had taken place. He added: "We have a very good core business with consistent profit records over the years. We have been diversifying very successfully for years and all viously, our board has a fiduciary duty to consider any offer but they would have to be prepared

to pay a substantial premium. A takeover bid would create an opportunity of a profit for Woolwich's savers, including those dubbed "carpetbaggers" for trying to speculate on its plans. Any predator would have to

make an offer to all the society's members, not just those who joined it before the December 31 deadline, after which new members miss out on Woolwich's handout of shares.

Any potential bidder has 15 months, until the society's annual meeting in April next year, to

make a move. If members agree the demutualisation plans, a bid would become more difficult.

Rob Thomas, building society analyst at UBS said: "Woolwich would have considered this possibility when deciding to make its move. I don't think there are any institutions out there with the resources or the

balls to do it. TWoolwich Prime Gold account holders will qualify for shares in the society's forthcoming flotation next year, contrary to a report in the Independent yesterday. Those who do not qualify are Current

Account holders. Weekend section, page 22

He added that the company

was exploring new ways of

growing volumes, including giv-

ing booksellers higher discounts

provided they were willing to ac-

cept firm sales of inventory. In

some cases, booksellers report,

publishers are willing to provide

trade discounts of as much as

60 per cent, compared to the

more normal 40 per cent of the

publishing group, which in-cludes the Hodder & Stoughton

imprint, was also willing to pro-

vide sharp discounts in order to

Mr Hely Hutchinson said his

NBA era.

IN BRIEF

£500m prison contracts

Tarmac, Costain and Securicor are among the companies which have won contracts to build two prisons in the UK worth over £250m each. Group 4 and Tarmac will build the Fazakerley prison in Liverpool and a consortium called SSA, which includes Securicor and Costain, will build Bridgend prison near Port Talbot, Wales.

New South Wales Electricity chief

Welsh Water is to appoint John Roberts, formerly of Manweb, as chief executive of South Wales Electricity on the completion of its bid for the company. Mr Roberts was chief executive of Manweb until its takeover by Scottish Power in 1995.

Tomkins merger still delayed

Tomkins, the British conglomerate, and US car components group Gates said they were confident that last month's proposed merger would still go ahead as planned. The companies had hoped to sign contracts by the end of December, but a couple of technical issues "unrelated to the businesses" remain outstanding.

Mars reports ice-cream rival Walls to OFT

Mars, the US confectionery giant, has attacked rival Bird's Eye Walls for alleged monopoly practices in ice-cream sales and confirmed that it had lodged a complaint with the Office of Fair Trading. Trade Secretary Ian Lang is currently considering prosecution of Walls executives for allegedly misleading an earlier Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into the ice cream market.

Profits warning from Rhino

Rhino Group, the video games to giftware group, warned that its 1995 results will be below market forecasts. Rhino said December sales fell short of expectations, with turnover for the quarter to December up 4.6 per cent on a like-for-like basis. The shortfall was blamed on difficulties over stock management, while gross margins had suffered due to "significant discounting" by

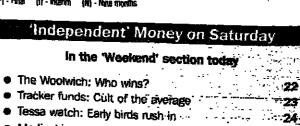
other main high-street competitors. FirstBus takes Mainline stake FirstBus has paid Stagecoach £1.63m for a 20 per cent stake in

Mainline Partnership, a local bus operator in and around Sheffield, Rotherham and Doncaster. First Bus has also subscribed for a £3.5m secured loan note and for £366,000 of non-voting convertible deferred shares in Mainline.

Future's still cloudy for Orange float

Hutchison Whampoa denied reports that its Orange mobile telephones offshoot would go public in March. The company said no decision had yet been made. The board was still studying details of the plan, she said, although Kleinwort Benson and Goldman Sachs have been taken on as "potential float co-ordinators".

	COMPA	NY RESULT	S	
	3 ravourus	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Dawson Holdiegs (F)	332m (131m)	3.5m (4.5m)	36.1¢ (82.3¢)	30p (29p)
French (F)	15.6m (15.3m)	0.93m (1.10m)	4.69p (5 77p)	3.625g (3.625g
ili-les Sports (l)	49 7m (58.5m)	0.81m (-6.57m)		
(P)-Panal (T)-Interna	(N) - None moretis			



Medical insurance ... becomes more General

Apple to cut up to 3,000 jobs

MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

Beleaguered computer company Apple is expected to cut up to 3,000 jobs and write off up to \$80m of inventory, as the full extent of its profits collapse

became apparent yesterday.
The company, which slashed pre-Christmas prices by up to 25 per cent in an effort to build sales volumes, admitted on Wednesday that its final quarter losses would be \$68m. The news sent the shares plunging by 6 per cent in New York, although the stock recovered -

ground in trading yesterday. According to informed sources. Apple's Americas operation will be split into three

divisions, covering software demas prices were cut to just dustry-wide 25 per cent. velopment, the educational £750 for an entry-level Apple. The downbeat news ca market, and mass consumer/ nomes sales.

The group employs 13,000 world-wide, and had revenues hist year of \$12bn.

. The restructuring will be aimed at reversing a dramatic decline in the fortunes of one of the world's leading computer companies, with a 9 per cent

market share. Analysts said the poor performance indicated serious structural problems at the company, which had profits of \$855m just four years ago. Severe cost-cutting by competitors. particularly IBM, has forced the company to abandon its premium pricing policy. Pre-Christ-

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from £1,000 previously. By contrast, IBM clone packages were just £500.

The price war will cut profit margins in the Christmas quarter to just 15 per cent, compared to as much as 50 per cent in 1990, when Apple managed to maintain high prices.

Cutting prices, which Apple last tried in 1993, goes against its traditional approach, which focussed on developing proprietary technology and maintaining margins through light and distribution chapmels. licensed distribution channels.

Despite the lower prices, Ap-

ple saw sales in the quarter

climb by just 11 per cent like-

for-like, compared to an in-

The downbeat news came as

80.000 visitors attended the Macworld conference in San Francisco. normally a time when the company unveils new products. Instead, the company has maintained a low profile. Analysts said yesterday that the future of Michael Spindler, the company's chief executive, was now in doubt. They sug-gested the company might have to retreat from the low-end of the market, and concentrate on niches where its user-friendly

products have been popular, including publishing, which it dominates. Others suggested a takeover could be in the offing. with IBM and Sony leading

after collapse of NBA The collapse of the net book tainly better now that all bookagreement pushed revenues at Hodder Headline, the pioneer sellers and publishers are on the same side of the fence."

Hodder sees sales grow

publisher, up 10 per cent in 1995 to just under \$90m (£58m). writes Mathew Horsman. According to unaudited

figures, sales recovered strongly in the fourth quarter, following disappointing sales in the summer. The company, which left the NBA in 1994, nearly a year before the minimum price maintenance accord collapsed. said that 1996 has started strongly, fuelled by January sales at book shops.

"Not all our sales growth ame from the end of the NBA," Tim Hely Hutchinson, said last night. "But is is cer-

promote new authors. CURRENCIES

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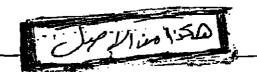
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'Back in the days of rampant corporatism and daily government interference in

business, when ministers would raise gas prices to massage the PSBR and lower them again

looked out of place'

to win election, this would not have

North Sea contracts." Sub head: "Long-term supply contracts likely to cost the company enormous losses in today's oversupplied energy markets." Er ... hold on a minute. Is this a time

warp or what? Back in the age of nationalised industries, rampant corporatism and daily government interference in business, when ministers would happily raise gas prices to massage the PSBR and lower them again to help win an election, it would not have located and any located and have located and have located and have located and have located and located not have looked out of place. But today? Could this be for real in post-Thatcherite 1996, 10 years after British Gas was abondoned through privatisation to the rigours and disciplines of the market?

The truth, it seems, is that bailing out British Gas has become a very live issue indeed, though the idea of a taxpayer and customer bail-out is for the time being only wishful thinking by British Gas, the result of an internal study and not yet put to the Government.

In the original privatisation prospectus, shareholders were told they were buying into a 25-year monopoly, with competition to be allowed only in the market for large businesses. Indeed, the prospectus said the monopoly could only be terminated with at least 10 years' notice by the secretary of state for trade and industry.

In such circumstances, British Gas managers, who were unreconstructed state

ply contracts that are the source of its present troubles. These stipulated that the company must pay each year for a certain volume of gas, whether or not it took deliv-ery. Though 55 per cent of the contracts

were agreed before 1986, the company went on buying, and the last three takeor-pay contracts were signed after 1991. The argument for a bail-out is quite sim-

ple; the Government, the Monopolies Commission, the Office of Fair Trading and the gas regulator changed the rules progressively between 1988 and 1993 to introduce greater competition. As a result, British Gas was faced with a falling market share which turned the take-or-pay contracts into a nightmare - an enormous liability hecause it could not sell enough gas to take all the contracted spplies. Worse still, open market gas prices also fell sharply, allowing new competitors to undercut by a wide margin.

Given that this débacle was a result of government action, British Gas argues, why should shareholders bear all the pain? This is as clear a case of false prospectus as they come. Instead of 10 years' notice, British Gas was given little more than two years' warning of the pilot scheme for the introduction of competition in the domestic market, which is to begin in the South-

But, like much in the gas business, these

regulatory framework, and that happened because it was gradually realised that too little had been done to introduce compe-

When the customer must not be asked to pay

tition into the industry. The prospectus made perfectly clear that British Gas was subject to a regulator - and at the time of the sale the financial risk of arbitrary actions by Ofgas was at the forefront of the debate in the City. Indeed, the prospectus spelt out the penalty for disobeying the regulator or ignoring the competition authorities, which was draconian the loss of the monopoly.

In the electricity and water privatisations, regulatory risk has proved far less severe than investors thought at the time of privatisation, and enormous profits have been made. But with gas, and arguably telecommunications, it is considerably worse, and the shares have performed relatively badly. Indeed, the gas share price trend over the years shows how early the City grasped the scale of the risk.

The idea of roping taxpayers and consumers into a rescue plan for gas, simply because there was more interference from the regulator than expected, is a case of "heads I win, tails you lose" and is not acceptable. This is a matter between British Gas and its suppliers; the Government's role should be as a referee and no more.

And if it wants to get its offshore suppliers to the negotiating table, it had bet-

savings would be passed on to consumers They are hardly likely to negotiate if they suspect the savings will be used to intensify competition from British Gas in exploration and production.

Will fur start to fly at the Exchange?

Nice document, shame about the timing. Had the Stock Exchange the nous to ask the market some while ago what sort of share dealing innovations it actually wants, much grief could have been spared. It might not have saved Michael Lawrence's job as chief executive, for there were so many disagreements that finally led to the cup of bile running over last week. But it would have spared the City unnecessary embarrassment as the Exchange lurched publicly from one faux pas to another, mostly connected with its clumsy efforts to push ahead with a share dealing revolution without any clear idea of

the backing for its plans. There was always plenty of evidence that big institutions wanted to see an orderdriven facility for the big FT-SE stocks because they know it will cut their dealing costs. They are certainly not interested in helping the market-making middlemen improve their livelihoods any more than absolutely necessary. As one of Britain's some fur flying.

Headline: "Taxpayers and customers to bail out British Gas over £40hn of North Sea contracts." Sub-head of the particular, it must tell them whether any literacts agreeing the 15- to 20-year take or pay supested in is the dealing system which maximises their p & l. For the investment community, we want that p & l to be as small as possible."

Three years ago there is no doubt the big market-makers would have dismissed out of hand an order-driven alternative. But already by last year their position was fast becoming more nuanced. Knowing the options on offer, the Stock Exchange should already then have found out what the market, and that means institutions. securities houses, big corporate lenders and small investors, favoured. It is only common sense to proceed with radical reforms on the basis of clear backing. rather than telling the market what you think is best and then hoping it finds support. If the consultation had shown broad support for the order-driven option, the market-makers would have adjusted to that. They may be powerful, but they can-

not defy their clients. The market-makers know they are heading for big changes. There will be fewer of them, and order-driven dealing will place a premium on distribution to off-load risk. along with a small number of high-powered block traders. Most importantly, the coming months will reopen the thorny debate about market-making privileges and how they fit into a new system. That should see

Fears grow of Gas dividend cut

Industrial Correspondent

Fears are growing in the financial community that British Gas may cut its 1996 interim dividend because of costly long-term contracts with North Sea producers which are forcing the company to buy billions of pounds worth

of gas it cannot sell. Producers are resisting attempts by British Gas to renegotiate the contracts in spite of calls from the Government to resolve the issue. British Gas is also considering a range of controversial solutions, such as the offloading of some expensive contracts to new suppliers in the domestic market, or massive bank loans which would be partly repaid by the rest of the industry. But it stresses that nothing like this could be done

without the support of ministers. One City analyst said: "If they fail to make progress on the long-term contracts during the spring, I think they will cut the interim dividend. I know this fear is shared by several institutioningness on the part of producers to help sort things out."

According to another analyst: "Institutions are dead scared they will cut the dividend. Other than the dividend, why would they be in British Gas at the

In November British Gas announced an historic loss of £181m in the third quarter after

£83m in provisions related to the long-term contracts. The company also said it would be forced to make a £520m pre-payment in the final quarter for gas not

Richard Giordano, the chairman, called on the Government to help the company renegotiate these "take or pay" contracts, the effect of which was

impossible to quantify. He said that the situation would be exacerbated by the introduction of domestic competition in April.

The row escalated this week when the Government confirmed it may consider a levy on British Gas's rivals to help offset the cost of the "take or pay" deals. British Gas has argued that the contracts were signed

could be sure of seiling the gas. It believes that because the Government decided to end the monopoly it should help to

find a solution to the problem. The Department of Trade and Industry may allow for the levy through a provision in new licences for rival suppliers which need to use British Gas pipes. But a spokeswoman said that no decision had been taken. Should it be included, it would be as "an insurance policy" in case the industry failed to solve its own problems and would not necessarily mean that a levy would be introduced.

The Gas Consumers' Council has attacked proposals for a levy on the grounds that the consumer would ultimately pay. Ian Powe, GCC director, said: There are public issues at stake here. Whoever is responsible for the situation it is not the consumer and at this stage we must resist attempts to make cus-tomers pay." The council also wants the Government to forgo £170m in North Sea levies which British Gas pays each year.

Beazer cries 'foul' over Trafalgar's Ideal sale

DAVID HELLIER

The fight for Ideal Homes looked set to escalate last night. Beazer Homes, one of Britain's biggest housebuilders claims it has been shut out of the bidding by Ideal's owners. Trafalgar House and is considering writing to its shareholders in an attempt to block the deal.

Trafalgar's favoured buyer for Ideal is Persimmon, which has been granted a period of exclusivity by Trafalgar House to put together an offer for the

Analysts believe it is prepared to pay around £156m slightly above the £150m book value of the business. Persimmon may also assume some of the housebuilding subsidiary's debts.

City observers yesterday noted the close relationship between Trafalgar House and Persimmon. Šimon Keswick, Trafalgar's chairman, is known to be friendly with Persimmon's chairman Duncan Davidson holders at an extraordinary

and his brother, Sir Chips general meeting. A spokesman Keswick, is a non-executive director of Persimmon and

chairman of Hambros Bank. Sources close to Beazer Homes said that they could think of no rational business reason why Trafalgar House had not sat down to consider its bid.

They said they would wait to see the final details of the Persimmon offer before deciding what action to take. "It is possible that the offer will be hardened now that our interest is publicly known. In such a case will be interesting to see what effect this has on Persimmon's shareholders," one

source said. City analysts say Beazer may be prepared to pay between £160 and 170m for the Ideal Homes business, and a Beazer spokeswoman said this figure

as "not unrealistic". Trafalgar House has already said that any offer by Persimmon would be put before share-

said that the agreement with Persimmon offers a "highly satisfactory outcome" for the

"A number of approaches for the Ideal Homes business were made and all were considered very carefully. But the Persimmon deal was viewed as the best way forward for Trafalgar House.

Trafalgar needs a sale to reduce its borrowings - but its beleaguered shareholders will be hoping that it gets the highest price possible for a division which contributes a sizeable part of the group's UK profits.

Housebuilding was the most profitable division for Trafalgar and made profits of £28.4m last year, of which the Ideal Homes subsidiary contributed £19m.

A successful puchase for Persimmon would make it one of the country's leadingf housebuilders but it will need to have a share issue to raise money for

al investors and I see no will- Richard Giordano: Wants the Government to help in solving the row

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

The world turned upside down

When a company is in the business of selling unit trusts, it has a vested interest in whipping up the enthusiasm of audiences at its presentations for the markets and sectors it has positions in. Even knowing that, however, nothing can quite prepare the innocent financial adviser for the evangelical onslaught of a GT Global sales

Behind the tub-thumping drama, howbetween equities and gilts has shifted, if not permanently then for the foreseeable Inflation has shaped the investment

landscape for so long now that it is hard to imagine a world where real assets such as houses and equities (that have a claim on the real assets of companies) do not sharply outperform paper ones such as bonds (gilts) and, particularly, cash.
Since 1972 equities have on average

increased in capital value by 1 per cent more than the rate of inflation, maintaining the real value of investments and then some. Gilts by contrast have slumped in real terms, losing 90 per cent of their value in inflation-adjusted terms. Since the beginning of 1990, however, put more of their money into long-term

in the second

that familiar picture has been overturned. Over the past five years, gilts have marginally outperformed equities (on a total return basis, which includes dividends). The effect has not been confined to the UK either - if anything the comparison is even more striking on a global cent they reached in the late 1950s.

Why should this be so? The answer appears to lie in the impact of inflation on the returns of different assets. In the 10 years from 1975 to 1985, inflation aver- handling other people's money. A It has also seen off the threat from disaged 12 per cent a year and equities out-

Household holdings of equities as % of

performed gilts by 13 per cent a year. Dur- Mercury Asset Management, M&G. ing the following 10 years, however, inflation was reined in to just 5 per cent a year on average and the outperformance was reduced to just 4 per cent. If GT is right and inflation ends the year at just 1.5 per cent (admittedly a tall order), gilts are likely to continue to be a relatively attractive investment for the first extended

period in decades. ever, yesterday's pitch to London's financial community, the latest stop on a Farrell, Merrill Lynch's senior investment of the more thought-provoking of which was the proposition that the relationship between equities and siles has shifted in the work of the more thought-provoking of which was the proposition that the relationship between equities and siles has shifted in the work, pointed out earlier to its recent excellent form over the crucial Christmas selling neriod. The distribution of the most unexpected phenomena of the 1000s. The distribution is recent excellent form over the crucial Christmas selling neriod. The distribution is recent excellent form over the crucial Christmas selling neriod. per cent, a shift that has been one of the largest drivers of the Dow's current bull run and especially of the share prices of US stockbrokers such as Merrill Lynch itself and Charles Schwab, the discount brokerage which last year took over

our own ShareLink. The reason for the increasing popularity of shares seems to be the US's age profile. As the chart below shows, equity holdings appear to track the percentage of the workforce over the age of 35. In other words, older workers, fretting about re-tirement and the inadequacy of state provision for the elderly have a tendency to

savings plans, mainly equities. The UK of course is not the US but it seems plausible that the same forces will drive equity holdings here up from the 6 per cent of household assets they currently represent to closer to the 18 per

That will be good news for stock mar-kets as a whole. Specifically, it will be 500, the company believes, while it reckgood news over the next few years for the companies whose stock in trade is

The world according to GT % of labour force

King & Shaxon (which owns the broker Greig Middleton and Allied Provin-cial), BWD and Lloyds Abbey Life could be very rewarding for the re-mainder of the decade.

Argos catches Nineties mood

16 per cent of total household assets to the festive season have translated into an underlying increase of 8 per cent on likefor-like store space. Even if not up with the double-figure growth recorded by Dixons and Carpetright, these are im-pressive figures, particularly after strong Christmas performances in both 1993 and

But Argos has been such a steady performer that yesterday's announcement surprised no one. Profits forecasts for the full year are therefore only being edged up or held at around £120m for last year, which would represent a 20 per cent increase on

The company's formula of no-frills, value for money retailing just off the high street has really caught the mood of the cost-conscious Nineties. After a blip at the beginning of the decade, when profits slumped to £52.9m. Argos has grown steadily. And the formula still has a way

to go before it reaches the whole country. The 370-strong chain of traditional ons it could more than double the number of superstores to between 100 and 120. count clubs like CostCo and Warehouse Club and with low rental and labour costs well below high street rivals, it is well placed to keep them at bay.

The main threat comes from the £200m cash which is currently burning a hole in Argos's balance sheet. The company is keen to diversify, but shareholders will remember the previous venture into furniture retailing, Chesterman, which left a £12.5m hole in 1992's figures.

First Stop, a discount format currently on trial, has gone well in its first few weeks' trading, as have three mini-stores serving smaller populations. Chastened by its previous experience, management is likely to be eautions about more adventurous acquisitions and might rather return cash to shareholders. But the shares, up 4p at 565p, reflect the quality on a prospective multiple of 21. Hold.

Can our Business Deposit rates match the 'Big Four' banks?

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	The Co-operative Bank	3.93	
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	Midland	3.22	Į
```]	Nat West	2,875	
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### Only if we lower them.

Compare the interest rates on our Business Deposit accounts with any of the 'Big Four' banks and you'll notice one thing immediately.

THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK BUSINESS DEPOSIT SERVICES % GROSS RATE. Balance Band 6500 - £9,999 3.25 £10,000 - £49,999 3.93 5.00 5.15 £50,000 - £249,999

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ison of similar accounts from major High Street Banks on 4th January 1996. The interest races quoted are gross (is the rate before deduction of Las) and current at time of going to press, but

### market report/shares

### FT-SE 100 3657.3 +2.4

FT-SE 250 4024.6 +9.3 FT-SE 350 1818.4 +1.8 **SEAQ VOLUME** 

759.9m shares, 29,811 bargains Gilts Index 95.46 +0.13

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

# Insecure London is unhinged by a volatile New York

of the session the FT-SE 100 index sported a double-figure gain and early US exuberance suggested Footsie would be encouraged to end the day on a

high note. In the event it managed a

modest plus - 24 points. The stock market has been under the whip of Wall Street throughout the week. As American shares, particularly high-tech stocks, have wilted and the Dow Jones Average suffered sharp falls London has

looked decidedly insecure. Footsie has managed to con-tain its fall to 47.2 points in often busy trading. But it will not be able to display quite so much resilience if US shares continue to weaken.

In the past year New York has comfortably outpaced London, prompting some observers to take the view that the close

Shares were unhinged by a markets may be on the wane. Volatile New York. For much However, although the gap However, although the gap has widened it seems it is still true that every time New York catches a cold then London

shivers. With snow-bound Washington still unable to resolve the budget crisis and the move to lower interest rates seemingly on hold, the prospects for a sharp New York revival look slim.

tively traded blue chip with turnover put at 25.5 million and the price firming to 369p. The shares have been the play of arbitrageurs and the more nimble footed institutions this week. Many have now taken their profits and retired. They are looking for the next

Forte was again the most ac-

ances and supermarkets seem to be the favourites. GRE, unchanged at 261p, was restrained by Société Générale Strauss Turnbull seli

round of bid action and insur-

### MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

The Forte family has around 10

per cent and may be tempted

again to increase its stake.

And the company has many

supporters, including Whit-

bread which hopes to buy its

budget hotels and roadside

auctioneer where Bahamas-

based Joseph Lewis has built

a 25 per cent shareholding, fell

9p to 191p as the market was

ruffled by an 800,000 overnight

trade at 195p.

MAI, on the NatWest Secu-

Christies International, the

dustries, which originally wanted the fund management side but has been persuaded to mount a bid for the company.

Even the big supermarkets were for the first time in a long while under the speculative gaze. Asda reached 114p, high-est since 1989. J Sainsbury gained 7.5p to 404p and Argyll, the Safeway chain, 6.5p to 342p. Wm Morrison, one of the smaller groups which is no stranger to takeover speculation, put on 4p to 150p.

Rumours continued to swirl around Forte. When Charles (now Lord) Forte successfully defended the group against Allied Domecq in the 1970s he

INVESTMENT COMPANIES

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

In what was generally a favourable research paper NatWest lowered its profit forecasts, with last year cut £15m to £305m, this year from £360m to £320m and next from £410m to £360m; it left the shares down 13p at 474p.

Enterprise Oil gained 13p to
382p on a successful oil test in and his friends moved into the market to bolster the defence.

southern Italy. With crude prices lower, other oils were mixed - British Petroleum and Shell moved in opposite

building and shipping group.

Costain, the hard pressed contractor, edged ahead to 75p. Arab interests now account for 37 per cent with Raymond International of Saudi Arabia holding 18 per cent and Mohamed Abdulmohsin Kharafi & Sons of Kuwait 19 per cent

Shandwick, the public relations group, firmed to 41p as rities break-up suggestion, added 12p to 342p. But the a \$40m loan note placing rehouse unsettled the P&O moved worries of a cash call.

OIL EXPLORATION

OIL INTEGRATED

OTHER FINANCIAL

The planned Lonrho demerger pushed the shares 3p higher to 195.5p but Storehouse's unexpectedly disap-pointing trading statement continued to take its toll, down

4.5p to 296. Some of the bio babes turned in lusty performances. British Biotech rose 50p to 1,783p and Scotia 18p to 558p after 578p. ML Laboratories added 19p to 379p. Goldsmith shaded to 211p; it would like to have be 500p.

it would like to buy the Ernest Jones jewellery chain which parent Signet is offering for sale as well as its H Samuel business. Signet's 6 per cent preference shares rose 7.75p to 52.25p and the ordinary shares

0.5p to 16.5p. Edge Properties, a specialist developer of retail sheds which emerged out of the BDA property group, opened at 96p, moving to 100p. The reverse takeover was struck at

Dawson Holdings, a newspaper distribution group owning half of the Surridge Dawson operation, has enjoyed a remarkable run on. the Alternative Investment Market since moving from the now discontinued 4.2 market. It was a founder member of AIM in the summer, opening at 480p. The shares, following results yesterday, jumped 120p to 1,010p. Profits fell £1m to £3.5m but an encouraging trading statement and a dividend lift cheered the mar-

TAKING STOCK

consideration. Card Clear, which produces equipment to beat credit card frauds, gained 6p to 66p following a deal with Mobil. The petrol giant, with 700 garages, is installing Card Clear's anti-fraud system in most outlets.

ket. Dawson has expanded in

the US and Spain and other

deals are thought to be under

BREWERIES

association between the two advice but there are sugges-**ENGINEERING VEHICLES** 

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

| 14.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 1004年 | 10

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Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price tearnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's carnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: xr Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex-all u Unlisted Securities Market s Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares.

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MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES

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i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	Level Bern Freuden and Level Bern Freuden and Level Bern Freuden and Level Bern Freuden and Level Bern Bern Freuden and Level Bern Bern Bern Bern Bern Bern Bern Bern	Second	Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept   Sept	279   200   413   613   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115   115	Finishing Golden Commentation   2007   1800   8.3   28.87   1879   2	Australe(Dollars) Australe(Collars) Australe(Schilings) Belgaum/Francal Coranda(Dollars) Australe(Schilings) Coranda(Dollars) Coranda(Coranda(Dollars) Coranda(Coranda(Coranda(Coranda(Coranda(Coranda(Coranda(Coranda(Coranda(Coranda(Coranda(Coranda(Coranda(Corand
R. G. R. R. R. G. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S. S.	### Control (A)   1983   259   67 299 \$2 1103   98   1985   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100   100	Staffer Glicher Bord	Marsand Berman Morth American   1972   500   34.0   1975.   127.6   2 million   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976   1976	SP   Pedific   1051   250   444   457   17   1005   25   25   25   25   25   25   25	Bissic House Absorgs HEFS   479   500   \$1 555.11   101.3   104.     Bissic House Absorged HeFS   479   500   \$1.55.55   503.27   502.2   129.     Bissic House Absorged Hessenool   486   1000   11.6   1871   1074   42.     Bissic House Absorged Hessenool   486   1000   11.6   1871   1074   42.     Bissic House Absorged   473   0.578   508.5   103.0   11.1     Bissic House Absorged   473   0.578   508.5   103.0   11.2     Lardy Managed   518.5   1.2   503   502.0   48.5   708.0   11.2     Lardy Hessenool   518.5   103   103   103   104.0   104.0   104.0   104.0     Cartery Hell Managed   477   478   200   20.0   104.0   104.0   104.0     Cartery Hell Managed   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478     Cartery Hell Managed   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   478   4	15   5/26   5/2   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/26   5/2
57 Fig. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.	## General   168   500 307.0 502.10 1776   12	Thorston Professor Inc.   1258   500   77.2   53.2   50.5   72.2   50.5   10.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5.5   5	Pines Libo Umaics Samos   1054   900   6.7   111.7   123.1   12	Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   Total Color   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ATHLETICS: Britain's leading lady is taking the first tentative steps back on track after a year in which she has endured the pain of serious injury as well as losing her world 400 metres hurdles record. Mike Rowbottom reports

# Adversity brings maturity for Gunnell

A single figure laps the track at Crawley Stadium, accompanied by the sound of lorries on the bypass and the harsh cries of seagulls drawn inland by freezing weather as they wheel overhead.

A crow waddles across the infield. More lorries pass. The wind chill factor, as the afternoon gives way to evening, is around -12C. The figure em-

barks on another lap.
The fates which carried Sally Gunnell to Olympic, world, European and Commonwealth titles have brought her to this bleak place in an attempt to turn fortune's wheel full circle after a year-long plunge into injury which caused her to doubt whether she would compete

The bone-chilling wind bears a clear imperative: go home; get warm. But Gunnell sets her face against it. Atlanta calls, and she has promises to

Britain's most successful female athlete of all time is quite different now to the giggly, oc-

### 'I was in tears every time I started to stride. I never thought I'd be in so much pain'

casionally gauche character who made her breakthrough at 400 metres hurdles in the Barcelona Olympics of 1992. The suffering of the last year, as much as the achievements of the previous three, have effected the change.

Gunnell's maturity has been well marked by Bruce Longden, who has coached her throughout her career. "I have seen it for some time," he said. "Last year made her realise a lot more about herself. the trials and tribulations of it all. She has always been a tough character, but I think it has made her even tougher. It's a case of 'been there, done that' for her. Now she's been seriously injured, and come back.

everything had rolled along relatively smoothly for her. Sudin her way and she has had to

The buffer in question emerged around this time last year. It was not, as was first feared, an Achilles tendon injury, but a growth of a bone spur in her right heel which was diagnosed belatedly and removed surgically in August. Dealing with it, however, was not as simple an operation,

"First of all it was a matter of learning to walk again," Gunnell recalled. "It was real-



Sally Gunnell, who is ready to smile once more as she looks forward to the Olympics after the most excruciating 12 months of her career

son hobbling around was me." Her situation was not withdenly she found a large buffer out its lighter moments - she chuckled as she recalled the presentation for a sports bra

which she gave while on crutches. "In a way I think it worked in my favour, but I had to laugh at myself." But the laughter ceased in the autumn months after the

crutches had been set aside. "That was the worst time for me," she said. "I had expected to come out and start running again straight away, but I seemed to be worse off. I thought, Eight months. For

going to go on for?"

"I felt as if I'd been patient all summer and I was desperate to get on with it. I would have a good day, and I would think 'Yes!' Then I would have a week when I would hurt again. I was in tears every time I started to stride. I never ever thought I'd be in so

For the first time in her life, Gunnell was in the disturbing territory which so many talented athletes have had to traverse. Roger Black could have told her about it. Derek Redmond could have told her

have told her about it. But in the end it is a place you have

to visit, and leave, alone. The journey back has been long and fraught. Like any other athlete who has suffered serious injury, her outlook has altered. She runs where she can on grass to cushion the stress on her foot. And she has to make calculations about the relative softness of the tracks near her home outside

Brighton. The decision to train at Crawley, for instance, had been prompted by her feeling that the surface at Horsham

years was becoming a bit hard. Even getting on to the windswept track at Crawley

was not straightforward. Locked gates frustrated her first attempt to enter the stadium, and the path back to the sports centre's reception was cordoned off with a crazed superabundance of tape which suggested the work of Gordon

Having gone the long way round to the main desk, Gunnell struggled to make her request for access heard above the screaming saws and echoing hammers of whatever renPhotograph: David Ashdown

the 1993 world title. Since then, of course, that

record has been lowered by Gunnell's American friend Kim Batten who, pushed to the line by her compatriot Tonia Buford, recorded 52.61 in last summer's World Championships at Gothenburg.

The effect upon Gunnell was immediate - as part of the BBC commentary team in Sweden, she had to interview Batten as she came off the track. "I had so many questions I wanted to it back badly." If Olympic titles ask her, but I was also in shock," she recalled. "It was termination, Gunnell could alonly later that night that I ready count on a second gold.

thought, 'Oh God. That's your world record gone as well. What a bomber of a year'. She is in no doubt that the

record is due to be lowered again in Atlanta, especially if she, Pérec, Batten and Buford are all fit. "There is no doubt the world

record is going to go again," she said. "I think it is in Perec's mind, and I'm sure she's capable of it. But I also think Kim, Tonja and myself can do it. There are four of us, and if we are all fit it is going to be a great race - so long as I can come out on top. And I believe I'm capable of doing it. Technically I really believe I'm better than the others.

Ultimately, each athlete concentrates on herself - and Gunnell is now in Stellenbosch to train in conditions a climatic world away from Crawley. It is here that she will do her first serious hurdling.

"You don't ever forget how to hurdle after doing it for so long," she said. Even so, she is pushed to recall the last time

### 'I think this year off was meant to be. If you can't do something you love, you want it back badly'

she raced competitively over the hurdles - 9 September, 1994, when she won in the LAAF World Cup final at Crystal Palace.

A year and a half ago in Helsinki, shortly before she completed her set of international titles by winning the European Championships. Gunnell sat underneath a statue of Finland's legendary athlete Lasse Viren and spoke about the difficulty of finding new goals to pursue. The truth was that she was the best. She had done it all.

. It is tempting to speculate that, at a subconscious level, the only challenge she had left was injury. She does not concur with such a hypothesis. but acknowledges that her problem may have been exacerbated by her attempts to push herself even harder in

training. "I must admit," she said, "that last January I was on that fine line of being the fittest I've ever been and..." She paused for a moment, mentally taking in her trials of the last 12 months. "As I look at it now," she went on, "I think this year off was meant to be. When you can't do something you love, you want were awarded for desire and de-

## **Questions of Sport**

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### QUESTIONS OF SPORT CLAIM COUPON

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Take this coupon to any of the participating Newsagents listed who will give you your prize

To the Newsagent: Please check the card is correct and give the reader the value of their prize. Send this coupon or details supplied on plain paper together with the winning card to your head office for full redemption.

. TELEPHONE

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The card contains eight games so you can play daily from today through till Friday 19 January.

And as well as the daily instant cash prizes there is a weekly accumulator prize of £5,000.

The Independent on Sunday tomorrow features two games giving you two chances to win.

**VDEPENDENT** 

### HOW TO PLAY

Today we are playing the section of the card dated Saturday 13 January. Below are three sporting questions, each with three possible answers coded as A, B and C. Scratch off your answer to Question One, either A,B or C in the Q1 column then repeat for Q2 and Q3.

You could not help thinking

that Gunnell's exotic French ri-

val. Marie-José Pérec, would

not be encountering similar lo-

cal difficulties at the Univer-

sity of Irvine track in

Gunnell has had more than

enough time to contemplate

her chances of retaining the

Ohmpic 400m hurdles title

this summer. Pérec. Olympic

and world 400m champion.

finished her first full season of

hurdling last year with a per-

sonal best of 53,21sec in only

her sixth race - as compared

with the world record of 52.74

California.

### THE OUESTIONS

Q1 Which of the following is an ice hockey term referring to play being re-started? B: Hit off

Q2 How many points does it take to win a single table tennis game, assuming score are not level? A: 21 B: 15

Q3 Which cricketer holds the record for the highest number of runs scored in a single Test lunings? A: Graham Gooch

### C: Viv Richards

B: Brian Lara

 No purchase necessary. Cards are freely available from newsagents or by sending a large sae to: Independent Questions Of Sport Card Request, PO Box 41, Blackburn X, BB2 6AG. One card per request. 2. The prizes for each game will be awarded to the player or players making a successful claim. 3. All claims are subject to scrutiny and cards must be intact to be eligible for a prize. Cards with printing

4. Winners must agree to the publication of their names and photographs in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday,

### IMPORTANT:

Scratch off ONE letter only for each question.
If you reveal three identical cash amounts on any one game section on any one day, you win that amount. After you have played the last game on your card, total the cash amounts you have revealed. If your total is £5,000 you win or share the £5,000 accumulator prize.

### **HOW TO CLAIM**

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For prizes over £5, phone 01254 683666 (Insh: Republic 0044 1254 683666) between 10.30am and 4pm Monday to Saturday. Participating newsagents: WH Smith, John Menzies, Forbuoys, Martins/RS McColl, Dillons, Gibbs, Macs, Supercies, United News Shops, Star News, K Balfour, Eason, GT News, Paperchain - Village Store, Paper Shop. If you have any difficulty redeeming your card and coupon for a prize send both to: Independent Questions Of Sport claims, PO Box. 60, Burnley, BB10 1SH.

Should more prizes be claimed than are available in any prize category, for any reason, a simple draw will take place for the prize.

8. Persons under 16 years old, employees of Newspaper Publishing pic., Mirror Group, Europrint Promotions Ltd., Newspaper Publishing pic retail ** agents, their egents and families are not allowed to 7. The Editors' decisions are final in all matters. relating to the games. No correspondence can be

8. Newspaper Publishing pic reserve the right to stop the game at any time and change the conditions.

REGAL TROPHY FINAL: Wigan look to a slick exponent of traditional hooking skills to oil the machine against St Helens

### Reliability is Hall's hallmark

Dave Hadfield assesses a relatively unsung powerhouse whose skills are vital for more high-profile team-mates

igan's team will always include players considerably more eyecatching than Martin Hall, but their way to highlight his contribution: a team man, for whom glue is just one analogy, the oil in the engine being there is an argument for nominating the hooker who plays against St Helens in the Regal Trophy final today as the glue that holds the whole thing together. The good news this week for both Hall and Wigan is that the glue is sticking with the club, at least for the first

Super League season. Hall had been due to join the Australian Rugby League when his current contract expires in June. However, in the first concession of its type, the ARL have decided to let him play out the season at

"It's what Wigan wanted and it's what I wanted and I'm delighted that the ARL have decided to let me carry on at Central Park for the time being," Hall said. "It's a weight off my mind, although I'm still looking forward to going to Australia in 1997."

It could simply be that the ARL are having trouble placing a specialist hooker who, unlike many other Wigan players, is not particularly well-known on the other side of the world. If clubs there were more fully aware of what he has to offer, the ARL attitude might not be SO generous.

Take last week's semi-final against Leeds, for instance. There were top drawer con-tributions from high-profile players like Shaun Edwards and Gary Connolly, but the choice for man of the match - and a popular one at that - was Hall. Not only had he popped up with the first try. blowing open what had been for 20 minutes a tight contest, but his work-rate throughout had been a major strand in the way Wigan capitalised on that

nition does not come his way,

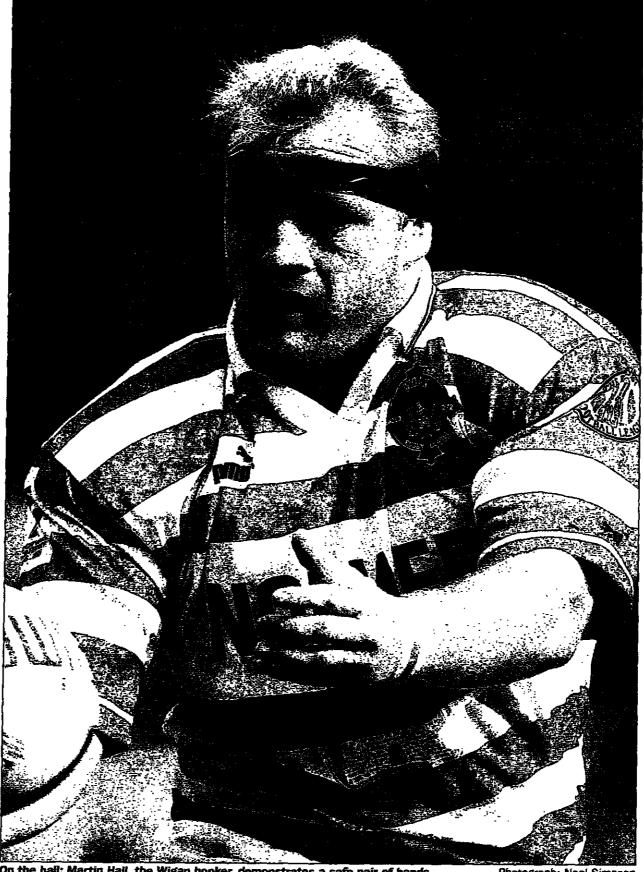
the oil in the engine being another. And yer Hall's position at Wigan has never been the most secure.

Originally signed from Rochdale Hornets almost exactly three years ago as an understudy to the then Great Britain hooker, Martin Dermott, Hall got his chance to establish himself in the first team because of the other Dermott's dreadful run of injuries. Even then, there were some, inside and outside the club, who hankered for Dermott's creative skills as almost an extra half-back, rather than Hall's more direct

Dermott is now fully fit again and lurking ominously on the substitutes' bench, his breath on the back of Hall's neck. But that is Wigan for you; there is usually a tempting alternative waiting in the wings if your form dips below the excellent for a week or two. There's always competition for places - you accept that," Hall said.

If he was the sort to suffer from insecurity, he would also have noted with concern that Wigan were instantly linked with the Halifax hooker, Paul Rowley, when he was put on the transfer list at £250,000 last month. Wigan were quick to stress that they were more than happy with their hooking situation, but the way the rumour mill immediately whirred into action underlined the inevitable lack of any

long-term guarantees.
Hall comes from a subtly different school of hooking from the mercurial Rowley or today's opponent, Saints' Keiron Cunningham. Both of those players are capable of a decade ago, like going almost the Wigan coach, Graeme the length of the field for a solo



Wigan hooker, demonstrates a safe pair of hands

Hall will not do that. But he will be there to support a halfbreak and keep a move flowing doing things that would have when it would otherwise die. He calls "a friendly rivalry" for the years his junior – at bay during he can show that he is half-calf injury since 20 December.

Even when official recog-been unthinkable for hookers is often the one player to read hooker's shirt in the Welsh last autumn's World Cup. In the marked by his own particular Again the quality of the a surprise thrust through a defence by Edwards or Henry West, and team-mates like try - as Cunningham did Paul and the one who gets there Edwards frequently go out of against Warrington on Sunday. to give him the options he needs. in his lot with Wales as part of occasion for Wigan.

Hall and Cunningham are not just opponents in club rughy, they also have what Hall Oldham-born Hall, who threw

the mass defection by the entire Wigan front row.

Hall kept Cunningham - eight

Photograph: Neal Simpson

On another in the endless series of those occasions, at Huddersfield this afternoon, side. Not that there is anything process, he showed that he can qualities, whether he is playing very obviously Welsh about the prosper at international level as for Wigan, Wales or some club. qualities, whether he is playing well as on the big domestic as yet unnamed, in New South

### Hughes is facing hard decisions

The St Helens coach, Eric Hughes, faces not just one but a series of difficult decisions today when he finalises his side to meet Wigan at Huddersfield for the Regal Trophy, writes Dave Hadfield. It is upon getting those decisions right that Saints' chances of upstaging Wigan in this after-noon's final depend.

Although all the club's injury victims have been officially pronounced fit and available for selection, it is quite another thing to be confident that they can come through a final unscathed. With only two substitutes allowed in cup competitions, there is a limit to the number of risks Hughes can take, which could mean that the prop Adam Fogerty will be

Fogerty was hobbling and wincing on a knee earlier in the week in a manner that suggested it would be months rather than days before he was fully functional. But, then again, he is an actor - with roles in Coronation Street and Heartheat to his credit - so per-haps there was method in his

The other thorny problem concerns Paul Newlove. The temptation to include him, now that he is fit to train on his damaged foot, is obvious, because he is a genume match-winner. But his injury is not the sort that can be strapped up very effec-tively and for him to break down, as he could, early in the game would be a major psychological and tactical blow.

One factor that has to be taken into consideration is the form of the player who would fill in for him. In the case of Andy Northey, that form is excellent and letting him carry on looks a better bet than gambling on even such an exceptional talent as Newlove.

Much the same applies to Anthony Sullivan, who is second only to Martin Offiah as a try-scorer this season, but who has been out with a keep him out until March. replacement is worth considering, as Danny Arnold is off at St Helens last Sunday, but the most impressive rookie to emerge this season.

will be grateful - and will settle - for having Chris Joynt back to complete a pack that could now carry real menace. If Joynt's shoulder is up to the job and he takes his place alongside the likes of Apollo Perelini, Vila Matautia and the slippery Keiron Cunningham, they have the forwards to take Wigan on. Perelini has proved himself a prop of the highest order this season and Matautia, while still raw has a brooding power and makes a fierce impact

But can Saints really harpoon the leviathan that is Wigan in what could be the last Regal Trophy final? Well, we can dismiss out of hand the assertion from Edwards, the Wigan captain, that they are the underdogs in this or any other final. They start favourites because of their unrivalled expertise in big matches and because their key players, Edwards included, rarely fail to produce the goods when it matters.

Kelvin Skerrett's back has ruled him out with Neil Cowie returing from suspension in his place. The loss of Skerrett weakens a Wigan side already lacking the all-round ability of Andy Farrell. However, some of their less celebrated individuals, like Kris Radlinski, Martin Hall, Terry O'Connor and Mick Cassidy, have given them their old, solid, reliable look again over the last couple of weeks.

You gamble against them at vour peril.

Wifgen: Connoily; Robinson, Tugamala Radinski, Offian; Paul, Edwards (capt) Cowe, Hall, O'Connor, Quinnell, Cassidy, Haughton, Sobstitutes: Smyth, Dermott, The Rugby League has accepted an invitation from the organisers to play in the Middlesex Sevens in May. The club to play in the tournament will be named on Monday.

Calland, has failed in an appeal against a suspension that will Salesi Finau, has been banned for two matches after being sent their full-back, Lee Penny, has

escaped without a suspension.

**Britain's** 

The Bradford centre. Matt

### Green Bay carry hopes of traditionalists and neutrals

West Coast offense with him,

and has successfully established

it in the harsher climes of the

Great Lakes.

American football

MATT TENCH

\$185-To 186 

3

General Control

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29 400 T 1

It is not just the hopes of Wisconsin that the Green Bay Packers will carry with them into Texas Stadium tomorrow. For the sport's traditionalists, not to same town, under the same mention its sentimentalists, their appearance in the NFC Championship game gives what promises to be an enthralling continuity is accorded a special encounter with the Dallas Cowhoys a special poignancy.

brethren, the Pack's history dates back to the origins of the professional game. Formed in 1919, they began as the works team for the Indian Packing Company of Green Bay and, to further set them apart, have played in the

name, ever since. In a sport, perhaps a nation, where change is a constant, such reverence, and there will be no shortage of armchair enthusiasts

Unlike most of their NFL rooting for the green and vellow Holmgren, have the Packers and you games. In the last couple of the game has been overcome kick-off time tomorrow. Desoite dominating the Thirties and the Sixties, the Packers' mer glories. Holmgren, who

appearance in what is effectively a Super Bowl semi-final is a surprise. The smallest town to sustain a professional franchise, Green Bay has grown accustomed in the last two decades to seeing its team locked in the basement of the NFC Central. Only in the last couple of

The key to doing so has been the performances of Brett Favre. There was a time when years, under the daring stew- Favre was regarded as a Reggie White to disrupt that ardship of the head coach Mike quarterback who could lose offense, but his preparation for

their fanatical fans been able to seasons he has been winning shadowed by far more serious aspire to anything like their forplenty of them.

Favre's devastating form this was the offensive co-ordinator season presents the biggest threat to a Cowboy side that has in San Francisco, brought the a formidable recent record against the Pack, and has a better balanced attack which includes the phenomenal rushing skills of Emmitt Smith.

> The Packers will be looking to their brilliant defensive end

events off the field.

White is the pastor of a church in Knoxville, Tennessee. On Monday it was burned to the ground, with racist slogans daubed on the back door. "The only thing I'm upset about is maybe our police department is not taking this thing serious enough," White said.

"It's time to stop sweeping this stuff under the rug. If we don't do something about these

groups, more people are going to die. I think until this country starts ganisations that are doing things like this, we're going to continue

be a brutal distraction, but we can be sure that he will go into it with the words of one Green Bay legend ringing in his ears. "Winning isn't everything," said Vince Lombardi, the head coach of the Sixties' dynasty. "It is the only thing."

STONES CENTENARY CHAMPIO

SECOND TEST: Great Britain v Malaysia (2.0) (at Bisham Abbey).

CEAST UNDER 21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (Dereham): Norfolk v Cambs (10.0); Essex v Suffak (12.0); Lincs v Norfolk (12.0); Herts v Essex (1.30); Suffak v Lincs (1.30); Cambs v Herts (3.0).

FRIENDLY MATCH: Letchworth v Sean Kerly XI (2.0).

PEDGOR CLUE CHAMPTONSHIP Preliminary rounds (continued): Pendiswell, Worcester 10.30-4.0. East Grinstead HC: 10.30-4.0.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Doncaster Panthers : Manchester Gards (5.30); Newcastle Cornes y Hernel Royals (6.0); Shetfield Sharts v Birmingham Bullets (6.15).

NATIONAL LEAGUE Men's First Division; Not

CLASSIC COLA MEN'S NATIONAL CUP Quar-ter-finals: Burton v Croydon (4.0); Sheffield v

covenny (4.0).

CLASSIC COLA WOMEN'S NATIONAL CUP
Quarter-Rigale: Birmingham v Nortingham
(4.0); Harlesden v Northampton (4.0); [oswich v Barling and Degenham (4.0).

WOMEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY Quarter-finals;
Bristol v Solem (4.0).

BRITISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Cardiff Devise v Stough Jets (6.15); Durham Wasso v File Pyers (6.30); Humbersde Hassis v Newassie Warnors 15.45); Minton Keynes Kings v Newassie Warnors 15.45); Minton Keynes Kings v Neturgham Panthers (6.0). First Division: Blackburn Hassis v Durnines Border Visions (6.0); Chemistid Chrethams v Billingham Bornbers (6.30); Guidford Plames v Swindon Wildcass (5.15); Medinary Bears viellod Tigger (5.25); Murrayfied Royals v Manchester Storm (6.30); Peterborough Pirates v Bracknet Bees (5.30); Solinuli Batons v Persley Pirates (7.0).

BOWES: CIS Men's National Championships (1985)

SMOCKER: Brash Open austhers (Brackson).

SQUASH: (F.) National Champions: ps. Ecopiestr

TABLE TENNES: Orange qualifying four offert. Wither, Manchester.

Hockey

Basketball

Covenity (4.0).

ice hockey

Other sports

### TODAY

Football Matches not on pools coupons; 3.0 unless stated
GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE 

FA CARLSBERG WASE Fourth round: Brigg y Bedington Temers; Burgess Hiff y Collier Ross, Carwey Island y Gorlesson; Chichester y Themesmead (1.30); Citheron y Willen-nalt; Oss y Banstead; Durham y Belger; Fixnati; uss v bansteat; Duffern v Belger; Fix-ton v Duriston FB; Use v Banvell; Lymington v Torporn (1.30); North Femby v Anstey No-mads; Paulton Rovers v Mangotsfield; Reun-ds v Taunton; Trafford v Selby; Windsor and Extr. v Peacehaven and Telscombe; Wiven-noe v Ansiev.

ds v Taumton; irandru v Seugi; irunara araEuro v Pascehaven and Telscombe; Whenhoe v Aveley.

1025 LEAGUE Pramier Division: Aylesbury
v Harnow Borough; Bishop's Stortford v Dulwich; Boreham Wood v Moissey; Carshalton
v Veading Chertsey v Purfleet; Erifield v Sutton Uti; Grays v Walton and Hershan; Hayes
v Hendon; Hitchin v Yeovit; Kingstonian v
Bromiey; St Albans v Wordung; First Division; Aburgson Town v Russlip Manor; Barton Rovers v Albershot Town; Beriframsted v
Whyselang; Helymidgs Swifts v Baring; Leyton Pennarit v Bognor Regs; Alaudanhead v
Marlow; Odord City v Libridge; Staines v Chesham; Thame v Billeroy; Wembley v Basngstole; Wollingtam v Todorig and Mitchian.
Second Division: Bedford v Cheshunt;
Brachnell v Dorlang: Edgware v Worg: Egham
v Tilbury; Hampton v Chaitont St Peter;
Hungerford v Saffron Walden: Leatherhead
v Wiffram; Metopoolitan Potics v Hernel Hempsteed. Tailed Division: Cave v East Thurnock; and Division: Cove v East Thurrock steed. Third Divisions Cone vess manner-Facineti Heart v Clapton; Harefield v Hor-sham; Harlow v Leighton; Hertford v Epsom and Ewell; Lewes v Kingsbury; Northwood v Homehurch; Vilngotte and Finchiey v Tring. Homehurch: Wingote and Finchley v Tinng.
UNEDOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Accomigon Stanley v Leck: Barrow v Guiseley;
Shot Spartans v Barrober Bridge; Boston Und
v Colvyt: Bay; Buston v Frolley; Chorley v
Sparnymono: Droyl-Sen v Mattock; Emley v
Knowsley; Gainsborough Tinnity v Marine:
Winstord v Hyde Dro; Wilston Albren v Bahop Auckland; Fless Divisions Alfredon v Lancaster; Ashbon Utd v Eastwood Town;
Alberton Life v Whitev Say; Engelford Park Averum v Hamsgale Down; Congeston v Warenue v Harrogate Town; Congeton v War-nington; Curzon Ashtan v Gretna: Great Harvood v Leigh RMI; Lincoln Uto v Work-ington; Netherfield v Worksop; Radciffe Bor-

regare, Retherhelo v Worksop; Radciffe Borough v Farsley Cetoc.
8EAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier Division: Atherstone v Rushden & Diamonds: Burton Albion v Battlach; Cambridge City v Halesowen Town; Chebrisford v Stafford

### loday's pools check 10 upless stated FA CARCING PRESSER

Wandpesie' Hel V Aston Villa Middlesbrough v Austral Notize Forest Southempton OPR v Blackburn Shellind Wadhesday v I Iverpool Turishtain v Manchester City

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S. Oerby & Reading

S. Lidon V Southend

15 Millhest V Port Vale

11 Cidnen V Bernsley

12 Portsmouth V Grinsly 13 Stoke v Leicester 14 Francere v Sheffield Utd 15 Walford v Huddersfield

est Bromwich v Wolves .....

Rangers: Gloucester v Merthyr Tydril; Gravesend and Northdeet v Cheiterham; Hastings v VS Rugby; Newport AFC v Craw-ley, Salsbury v Gresley Rovers; Sudbury lown v Dorchester; Worcester v Weston, Midland Division: Bedworth v Grantham; Bridgnorth v Rothwell; Bury Town v Baston; Hincidey fown v Dudley; Karg's Lynn v Solfhull Bor-ough; Moor Green v Evestam; Paget Rangers v Nuneston Borough; FC Wanwick Buckingham Rour, Redditch v Sutton Cold-field; Stouthardse v Leicester Unit, Tarmorth v Corby, Southern Division; Bastiey v Enth & Belveders; Canderford v Torchridge; Cleve-don v Forest Green Rovers; Newport (WV) v Fisher; Poole v Haards Tinchordige v Brain-tree; Waterlooville v Margate; Weston-sutree; Waterloovile v Margate; Weston-su-per-Mare v Astrord; Weymouth v Fleet; Witney v Situngbourne; Yate v Fareham. WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Diviwirestural_eas new i Leadale First Divi-alori Corribian v Carachan; Crockental v Hythe (2.15); Favesham v Sheppey; Folle-stone Invicta v Cray Wanderers; Ramagate v Beckenham; Slade Green v Deal. INVET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-

vision: Crowborough v Portheld: Eastfourne Town v Ringmer, Hailsham v Arundet, Hor-sham YMCA v Shoreham; Mile Oak v Three Bridges: Oalongod v Stamoo: Pegnam Langrey Sports: Southwick v Whitehaust. Langrey Sports; Southwick v Wildehald.

NORTHERN COURTES EAST LEAGUE Premiar Division; Armburge Veillare v Osset.
Album; Denaby v Publishing Glasshoughton
Welfare v Ashfield; Hucknall v Hatfield Mann;
Liversedge v Goole; Malby v Armold Osset.
Town v Stockstadge; Trackey v Shelld. NORTH WEST COUNTRES LEAGUE FIRST DI-

### SECOND DAYSON 18 Bardford City v Brighton 18 Bristol City v Crewe 18 Burnley v Stockport 19 Cartisle v Chesterfield 20 Hull City v Rotherham

22 Peterforough v Bournemouth
23 Swansea v Bristol Rouers
24 Weisell v Strewsbury
25 Weshern v Blackpool
28 Wycombe v Notts County THERD DIVISION

30 Doncester v Torquay 32 Fulliam v Scarborough. 33 Gillingham v Lincoln City . 34 Resolved v Cambridge Utd 35 Levton Ottent v Mansfield...

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Clacton v Relisatione: Cornard v Haddegit: Fakertham v Newmarket; Great Yarmouth v Soharri, Halstead v Wisbech; Stommarket v March; Tiptree v Woodondge; Watton v Harmich and Parkeston; Wrosham v Sudbury Town. HEREWARD UNITED COUNTES LEAGUE Hang-word of the Education of the Premier Divisions Sosan Town v Long Buchty; Desborough v Minriess Blackstone; Eynesbury v Bourne; Nesport Pagnel v Studiot; Northempson Spencer v St. Corty: Potton v Holbeach; Stambord v Cogenhoe; Wellingborough v Spalking: Wootton v St. Neets. GREAT MILLS LEAGUE Premier Division: Backwell y Bernstadle; Chippenham v Brs-lington; Frome v Credican; Odd Down v El-

more; Twerton v Bridgett; Westbury v Bristol Menor Farm, Les Philips Cup: Bishop Sut-ton v Exmusti. TEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN
LEAGUE First Divisions Chester le Street v
Whiting Eppleton v Cheste Fernythil v Billing-ham Synthomat Nation v Wass Audianot RIM Newcastle v Gusborough; Seaham Red Star v Shidon; Tow Law v Stockton; Whickham

v Consett.

NERSING EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE.
Boleheli v Bolchner: Chasetowi v Hinodey.
Athletot, Krybersky v Blakerali, Perstore v
Oldbury: Pocester v Shepshed; Strafard v
Stapenhili; West, Mutands Police v Shinal. PRESS AND HIGHLAND HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Cachinacutdin v Cove Rangers; Hundy v Fort William; Nami County v Brora Rangers; Penethead : Sucice Thistie. SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Divi sione Arts v Geranott; Gentarar v Bangor; Limield v Cusaders, Portadown v Critoriule. Fost Division: Carrol, Rangers v Omagn; Col-

### WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE 38 Rochdale v Darington ..... BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION 40 Hearts v Falkerk... 41 Kilmamock v Hibernian .....

42 Motherwell v Partick ... 43 Rangers v Raidi ...... FIRST DIVISION
44 Dumberton v Airdne
45 Dundee Utd v St Mirren

46 Dunfermline v Civdebank ..... SECOND DIVISION 49 Berwick v Forter

51 East Fife v Queen of South...... 

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Lensand-fraid; Barry v Connah's Quay Nomads (2.30); Briton Ferry v Conwy; Caemarlon v Porthmadog Cemaes Bay v Irane Carviff; Ownbran v Afan Lido; Fiint v Lianelli; New-town v Caeraws (2.30); Rryl v Ton Pentre.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PRÉMER DIVISION Aberdeen v Cehic ......

FAI HARP LAGER CUP First round: Cobi Ramblers v Sugo Rovers (7.45); Finn Harps v Longlord (7.30). ANON RESURANCE COMBINATION First Di-vision: Arsenal v Swindon. Regat League REGAL TROPHY Final: St Helens v Wigan [3.0] (et Alfred McAlpine Stadium, Hudders-

Ragby Union

Regby Union
2.30 unless stated
COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP National League One: Orell v Safacens (2.15).
National League Two: London Inst v London Scottish (3.0): Notungham v Newcastle Cosforth (3.0); Wakefield v Blackneath (50 Waterioo v Bertlord (2.15). National League Brase: Coverny v Morthy (3.0): Hargoste v Rosslyn Park (2.15): Otley v Fyde (2.15): Richmond v Rotherham (3.0); Righy v Reading (3.0). National League Four Asparta v Reductional League Four Asparta v Reductional League Four Morth: Birmingham Solkhull v Sheiheld (2.15): Karlad v Whatefalle (2.15); Numeaton v Lichaed v Varietale (2.15); Numeaton v Lichaed v Safarela (2.15); Rumeaton v Lichaed v Varietale (2.15); Rumeaton v Lichaed v Varietale (2.15); Rumeaton v Lichaed v Whatefalle (2.15); Rumeaton v Morth Walsham; Lydney v Henley. HERNEICEN NATIONAL LEAGUE Flisst Officiant.

TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP Quarter-finals: Chitem v Crystal Palace (8.0); Stockton v Cardiff (3.30). COND-ROUND REPLAYS
Annen v Berwick Rangers (1.30)...
East Fife v Sperians
Praserburgh v Whitehill Welfare....
Yearh v Deverorwale

3.0 unless stated -FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Covertry City v Newcastle Utri (4.0) .

ENDSLERH INSURANCE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION Birmingham v Charlton (2,55)...... Sunderland v Norwich

Swansea v Newtondge, Second Divisions Abactyron v Camphilip; Boryman v Landovey; Cross Keye v South Wales Polace; Llanfaran v Ten'dy Utd; Porthypool v Durwan; Ystradgyrlas v Maesteg.

TENNENT'S SCOTTISH REGIONAL LEAGUE East One: Boroughmuir v Cunte (2.0); Earthough Wards v Warsoneurs (2.0); Haddington v Bigger (2.0); East Two: Corstophine v Preston Loage (2.0); East Two: Corstophine v Steverts Med FP (2.0); Dundes HSFP v Kirk-aldy (2.0); Grangemouth v Gordonaurs (2.0); Herois FP v Edmburgh Acads (2.0), South: Kelso v Hawdick (2.0); Metrose v Langroim (2.0); Peebles v Jed-Foresz (2.0); Seffurt v Gala (2.0). West: Glasgow Acads v Glasgow Southern (2.0); Kirk-mannock v Ayr (2.0); Suring County v Glasgow (4.0).

CLUB MATCHES: Bristoi v Gioucester (3.01; Harlequins v Loughborough Univers (3.0); Leicester v Glasgow Doznici (3.0); Moseley v West Hartlepool (3.0); Northempton v Blath (3.0); Cheltenham v Matson; Lanelli v Aber-

PREST TEST: Great Britain v Makaysia (11.0) (at Bisham Abbey). NASTRO AZZURRO South Premier: Ashford V Lons; Becentam v Wolang Bournemouth
v Wimbledon; Fareham v Newbury; Gore Court
v Spencer, Madenhead v Chichester; Old
Kingstonans v Anchonans; Old Walcounthans
v Lenes; Odord Hawles v Wolangham; Warchester v High Wycombe.

chester v High Wycombe.
BIDOOR CLIB CHAMPIONSHIP Preliminary
rounds: Perdisurell, Worcester: Stoutport,
Cannock, Barlord Tigers, Donaster, Frebrads
and Hull (11.30-7.30). East Grinstead
HC: East Grinstead, Leonureter, Old Loughtsnans, Rechnidge and Mord, St. Albans and
West London Instrume of Higher Education
(11.30-7.30).

### Basketball

THERD DEVISION 7UP TROPHY FINAL: London Towers v Worthing Bears (7.15) (at NEC, Birmingham). DISER LEAGUE: Derby Storm v Leices-CLASSIC COLA MEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY

> NATIONAL LEAGUE Men's First Division: Bury v Oldham and Rochdele (7,30), Second Div Oldham and Rochdale (7.30), Second Di-vision: Costord v South Bank (6.0); Croydon v Swindon (8.0); Northampton v Sheffield (8.0), CLASSIC COLA WOMEN'S NATIONAL CUP Quarter-final: Spettrome v Sheffield (6.0) WOMEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY Quarter-fi-sals: Loughborugh v Crystal Paloca (3.15); Manchester v Doncaster (4.0); Wirral v Leicaster (4.0).

British LEAGUE Prender Division: Basingstoke Bison v Newcastle Warmors (6.30); Fife Pyers v Notingham Pammers (7.15); Sreffield Steelers v Durham Wasss (7.0); Sough Jess v Mison Neynes Nings (6.30); Past Division. Billingham Bornbers v Marrayfield Royals (6.30); Bracknell Bees v Guidford Romes (6.0); Durnfres Border Viorgs v Sandon Wildcats (7.30); Pastley Prates v Manchester Storm (7.0); Penarborough Prates v Medway Bears (5.30); Telford Tigers v Sohrull Barons (7.30).

Other sports ATRIETICS: Reebok Inter-Counties Cross-Country Championarip (Luton). BOWLS: CIS Men's National Championships (West of Scotland Indoor Stadeum).

BOXING: European Boxing Union super-mid-deweight championship: Henry Wharton (York, holder v Vincenzo Nerdiello III), Vacant British light-middleweight title, Ensley Binghem (Manchester) v Gubert Jackson (Battersee) (North Bridga Leisune Centre, Halifax). SNOOKER: International Open qualifiers

SQUASH: QM Navonal Championships /Edgbaston Prory Club, Birmingham, 1.0). TABLE TENNIS: Olympic queldying tournament (Nymex Arena, Manchester).

### TOMORROW Football

2.15 unless stated ALL DINESS STATED FAIL HARP LAGER CUP First round: Avondale Ltd v CYM Terenure: Bray Wanderers v Fanad Und: Deny Cny v St. James' Gaté (3.15): Sharmock Rovers v Shebourre; TEK Ltd v Cork Cny, Temple Ltd v Home Farm Evenon; University College Cork v Lamerick (2.0); University College Dublin v Kilkerny (3.15): Wayside Celtic v Cherry Orchard.

Rugby League 3.0 unless stated SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP Taird round: Bar-

### dealing strongly with these orto have these problems." For White the game can only

row v Doncaster (2,301; Bramley v Heworth Cartisla v West Bowling (2,0); Chorley v That to Heath: Highfield v West Hull; Hull X R v East moor (2,30); Hurslet v Skirlaugh (3,30); Lugh v Egermont; Swinton v Thomhit; York v Loci Lane (3,15). The manager, David Whittle, was not worried yesterday that Malaysia, one of Britain's sevifax v Wermigton: Workington v Oldham. First Division: Devisiony v Whitehaven; Hull v Widnes (3.15); Keightey v Badey (3.15); Rochdale v Featherstone; Wakefield v Salford (3.30).

> give us the tough opposition we need at this stage."
> Whittle added: "We have no injury problems and now need to cap the excellent preparation we have been able to make during the past few weeks." Since coming together at the end of November Britain have played eight

Malaysia, who progressed rapidly up the world rankings un-der their Australian coach, Terry Walsh, in the lead-up to the Barcelona Olympics, finished three places behind Britain, in ninth, subsequently parting company with Walsh. Currently coached by the German Volker Knapp, they appear to be on the up and can be expected to give Britain the test they want. Their centre-forward, Shankar Ramu. has played for a couple of sea-

Britain seem likely to give an extended run to Soma Singh at left-half with the rest of the starting line-up looking settled.

### **Olympic** warm-up Hockey BITT COFMITT

Great Britain put the finishing touches to their preparations for the Olympic qualifying tournament, which starts in Barcelona on Friday, with two games against Malaysia this weekend at Bisham Abbey.

en opponents in Barcelona. would be given a preview. He said: "We play them late in the tournament and they will have had plenty of time to watch us in Barcelona, They are a country desperate to get back into the top six in the world and will

internationals, and apart from a draw against Argentina, they have won the remaining games. scoring 29 times in the process.

sons for Cannock in the National League,

Statting line-up looking Settled.
GREAT BRITAIN (Proteiler & Mason Recomp.)
J Wyst Reading, J Halls (Ost Dogstronsca.)
G Fordham (Hourstow, Kallie Tokker Connact., Soma Singh (Soungate); C Mayer Connact., Rearis Polo Barcelora, R Thompson Hourstow, J Lasiett (Tedongan, San., N Thompson (Od Loogstronars), Substitutes D Linders Past Gristeadt, C Gles (Haller), S Hazim (Hourstow), J Shaw (Southpate)

### Hillier did not suggest, incidentally, that he thought the bag was a gift and, in any case, he intended to give it back at a later date Ricky Otto of Birmingham (three deed, to let the team's latest cap,

One piece of football news was vian businessmen. Hillier did not buried this week under the pile of suggest, incidentally, that he thought also produced Ray "Pizza" Parlour, buried this week under the pile of old baggage which surrounded Terry Venables' decision to hang up his England tracksuit. David Hillier, the Arsenal midfield player, admitted in court that he had stolen a briefcase

belonging to a Danish businessman. It seems that on their return from a holiday, Hillier, along with Wayne Burnett of Bolton Wanderers, spotted the case apparently abandoned in a bus stop at Gatwick Airport and decided to liberate it. In fact, its owner had merely left it there while he went to retrieve his car.

The case contained £3,000-worth of clothes and computer equipment, which might be considered a and Martin Keown. disappointingly small haul compared to the amounts other former Arsenal employees have found in bags left lying around by Scandina- helped develop Hillier's talent. He

the bag was a gift and that, in any case, he intended to give it back at a later date.

Instead, the player threw himself at the magistrate's mercy, saying that he was distraught at his stupidity and that his form had dipped to such a degree since the incident, what with all the guilt and worrying, that he was now on the transfer list. The magistrate accepted his plea, although a closer observer of the game would have pointed out that it wasn't necessarily the crime: anybody's form would suffer if they were obliged to share the midfield with John Jensen

And a more astute legal process might have asked questions about the Arsenal youth system which

also produced Ray "Pizza" Parlour, who got into trouble in Hong Kong after a Dennis Wise-style altercation with a taxi driver. There is also Paul Merson, whose all-round personal problems led to a near-breakdown and Kevin Dennis, who never made it into the first team, not so much because he wasn't talented but because in September 1993 he was sentenced to 30 months for

manslaughter.
At Dennis's initial hearing, the north London club, showing admirable loyalty to an employee asked the magistrate if the case could be brought forward as they had a car waiting outside to take the player down to a reserve match. And we must not forget the Arsenal youth system's most decorated old boy, Tony Adams, who served 56 days of

Jim White



a four-month sentence for drink-driving in December 1990. An in-

triguing roll-call.

Luckily for Hillier, the magistrate decided not to delve too closely and simply to fine him £750. Thus the player missed the chance to join football's most exclusive squad: those who have served time. Bring them together, and the British Lass XI would make quite a handy

The spine would have been constructed from the Sheffield Wednesday trio, Peter Swan, Tony Kay and David "Bronco" Layne, jailed for four months in 1965 for matchrigging. They might be getting on a bit now, but once would have been handy for helping the lads secure a

Alongside them would be yet another product of the marble halis of Highbury, Peter Storey, a Double winner with the Gunners and a double time-server too: he was given two years in 1980 for plotting to counterfeit gold half-sovereigns and then 28 days in 1990 for smug-gling pornographic videos.

Jamie Lawrence of Doncaster (26 months for robbery in 1992) might have been useful additions to the team when it required some kit in a hurry, and endless injections of enthusiasm could be provided by Mickey Thomas, the evergreen Wrexham winger who was given 18 months in 1993 for passing forged banknotes (although it might be ad-

visable to check his match fee carefully before accepting it).
You wouldn't let any of the rest of the squad anywhere near the wheel of the team bus without sniffing the air first: George Best (1984). Mick Quinn (1987), Jan Molby (1988), skipper Tony Adams (1990) and Terry Fenwick (1991) were all sent down for offences involving driving while over-refreshed. Or, in-

years for robbery in 1987) and Duncan Ferguson, anywhere near

the opposition. Hillier, although he would have made a fine contribution in a selfless fetching and carrying role, probably won't be losing much sleep about not being picked for the side. A £750 fine, public humiliation and a criminal record might be regarded as serious enough recompense for his moment of stupidity, but things could have been

Judging by the way in which the leading contenders are running away from it as if from a man possessed by a terminal case of halitosis, if the magistrate had really wanted to punish the player he would have given him the sentence everyone in football fears: the job of England manager.

### Seles relishes belated return

made to the Australian Open, which starts on Monday, and the Victoria parliament has it in mind to change the name of the splendid setting from Flinders Park to Melbourne Park, accentuating the city rather than an English nav-

Two new show courts are the latest embellishments, along with fluorescent tennis balls. Some of the female players would like to tell the organisers where to shove them, equal prize-money having been abandoned except in the case of the singles champions. Otherwise the place remains largely as Monica Seles remembers it from her last visit in 1993.

experience in the meantime, acteristics of champions, rehowever, Seles could be forgiven for not recollecting a Channel 7 announcer. Bruce about her, I can assure you." McAvanev, after she had defeated Steffi Graf. 4-6. 6-3. Monica," McAvaney said, "but Monica Seles. She turned 21 to-Flinders Park; again the cham- court." pion." But how was he to know that the analogy he drew be-tween Seles and the folk hero Australian Open champiof the antipodean turf would become so frighteningly apt?

Lightning) was shot at from a moving car days before winning the Melbourne Cup in 1930, and

left Flinders Park in 1993, the 19-year-old was stabbed in the back by a Graf obsessive, Gün-

few additions have been **John Roberts** looks at the prospects of a former tennis champion recapturing her title when the Australian Open gets under way in Melbourne on Monday

> ther Parche, during a changeover while playing in Hamburg. She did not make a comeback until July last year, having been out of the game for 27 months.

When Seles played Graf I had a great view, close up from a little seat next to the court, McAvanev said, "It was one of the best matches I've ever seen. I thought Graf was going to win early. Seles looked as if she was struggling, and she just seemed to show tremendous fortitude. Having suffered a traumatic She displayed all the great charfusing to give in, and Phar Lap came to mind. I'll be pretty carespeech made on the court by the ful saying anything this year

Seles - while expressing disappointment that Graf is unable 6-2 to win the title for the third to resume their rivalry, having consecutive year. "Well, this undergone foot surgery - is might not make much sense to delighted to be returning to the place where she won the last of eight Grand Slam sin named Phar Lap and he had a tles. "One of the best memories. very big heart and so does after the US Open of last year, is of Australia '93," she said. "I day: 21 straight victories here at love the stadium. I love the

She has an unblemished onships, but only just. Her first visit, in 1991, almost ended in Phar Lap (Maori for Red defeat in the semi-finals when she was match point down to the American Mary Joe Fernandez at 5-6, 30-40 in the third set. Fertraces of arsenic were found in nandez netted an attempted the chestnut gelding's body af- winner and Seles edged the ter he died mysteriously in Cal-match, 6-3, 0-6, 9-7. She went ifornia in April 1932, two weeks on to become the youngest after winning a race in Mexico. Australian champion (17 years, Three months after Seles one month, 24 days) by defeat-

ing Jana Novotna in the final. Graf withdrew because of ill-

match in 1992, Seles defeating Fernandez in straight sets in the

> when counselling had supplanted tennis on Seles's agenda. A year ago, the fact that the women's singles would be devalued by the absence of both the injured Graf and the rehabilitating Seles was offset to a degree by media preoccupation with Andre Agassi, who finally arrived and made a winning de-

> final, but the German won the title for a fourth time in 1994,

but at the championships. The guarantee of a new women's champion, someone who would break the Graf-Seles monopoly which had existed since the tournament moved to the rubberised concrete of Flinders Park from the lawns of Kooyong in 1988, only became a novelty when the victor turned out to be Mary Pierce and not Arantxa Sanchez

Vicario, the strong favourite. Pierce, who had been sub jected to a difficult upbringing by a father who was disruptive both on and off the court, grasped her opportunity. The tall blonde dominated the final with her potent groundstrokes, defeating Sanchez Vicario in straight sets.

Seles is wary of the situation. "I think Mary Pierce will be very tough because of how well she did last year," she said, perhaps applying the logic that a champion's confidence is replenished on returning to the scene of a triumph.

The fact is that Pierce, who opening day of the tourna-Grand Slam success. At the





French Open, where she caused a sensation in 1994 by overwhelming Graf to reach the final, Pierce lost a fourth-round match to Iva Majoli of Croatia in straight sets.

That prompted Pierce's coach, Nick Bollettieri, to send if her disappointing perfor- to the American Amy Frazier mances were related to a series marks her 21st birthday on the of illnesses and injuries which had affected her during the ment, has provided scant evi- spring (a kidney infection and dence to suggest that her game strains to the shoulder, arm and has improved since that initial groin). She passed a rigorous physical examination.

caught a glimose of the Canadian-born. American-raised Frenchwoman, although not. much more than that as she fell to a compatriot. Nathalie Tauziat, in the second round. There was further disappointment at her to the Mayo Clinic to check the US Open, where Pierce lost

> in the third round. Pierce has spoken of a contradiction between her tennis persona - a mixture of prima donna and nervous wreck - and the way she behaves away from the court. While allowances

In June, Wimbledon finally can be made for her awful experiences as a teenager on the tour, the underlying problem with her play continues to be the

hit-or-miss nature of her style. If. for Seles, 1993 began brilliantly and turned into a nightmare, Pierce can look back on the year with contrasting feelings. It was in 1993 that she finally broke free from the disturbing influence of her father, Jim, who was banned from tournaments. In June that year, while endeavouring to rebuild her career, Pierce visited

the French coach, Pierre

2.20 BITTERN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3m

2.55 DIPPER NOVICE CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £20,000 added 2m 4f

3.25 HERON NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m

she felt she needed to improve. "I don't know now to play," she said. "I don't know why I win.

I don't know why I lose." Some would argue that the dilemma remains, that because there is no margin for error in Pierce's approach, her occasional spectacular performances belie a general lack of consis-

Time is on her side, of course, and she has not come so far in such trying circumstances without being blessed with re- And if she does run away with silience. Her mother, Yannick,

Mind.

Photographs: ReutedAP Barthes, who asked her what once said: "She's strong my daughter. If she wasn't, her rackets already would be in

the closet." Seles is aware that plenty of eager contenders are hoping to ambush her, mentioning in particular Sanchez Vicario, Gabriela Sabatini ("if she's playing really well"), and Conchita Martinez.

Bearing in mind Seles's knee. ankle and viral problems since the US Open, it seems unwise to anticipate a one-horse race.

COLLEGE WHITE COMPANY (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) BENEFIT BOLLEGE (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP) DE 10 1.1 L. Culture (APP

3.55 MALLARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D)

### Rusedski faces Becker

battle of the big hitters in the first and could face an even bigger round of the Australian Open af- threat in the third round in the ter he was paired with Boris form of Mark Philippoussis. Becker in yesterday's draw. Another Briton, Tim Henman, pras in the final last year, has a also faces a stiff first-round test against Petr Korda, of the Czech Republic.

the fastest serve in the world. will know that when he meets the world No 3 at Melbourne's Flinders Park next week he will have to upset the odds, after the pre-draw favourite in the abbookmakers installed Becker as 10-1 joint third favourite.

Rusedski, who claims to have

However, Rusedski is enjoying a run of good form, having made it into yesterday's semifinals of the Peters International tournament in Sydney, where he lost to Todd Martin.

Greg Rusedski is braced for a Fromberg in the first round -

much easier path to help him back to fitness after a threemonth lay-off caused by an injured chest muscle. He opens against a qualifier and is then then scheduled to face his fellow American Vince Spadea.

Monica Seles was installed as sence of the injured Steffi Graf. She starts against a qualifier and should ease through to the semifinals, where she is seeded to

meet Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. The defending champion, Mary Pierce, is in the same quarter as Kimiko Date, and is seed-1, meets Australia's Richard Martinez, in the semi-finals.

### HYPERION 12.40 Highbank, 1.10 Dally Boy, 1.45 The Bud

**NEWCASTLE** 

Club, 2.20 Dominie, 2.55 Addington Boy, 3.25 Wisdom, 3.55 Jalcanto

Editions: Good.

■ Course is on A1, 5m north of town. ADMISSION: Chin £ 12; Tastersalls £0; Silver Ring £4 (£2) for OAPs and distabled). CAR PK: Prec.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EURINERS: Romany Creek (1.46) travels:308
miles from G B Balding's Fyfield stable in Hampshire.

12.40 SHOVELER COND. JOCKEYS' SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,600 2m 21JUPF DAIN SOUND GRI (0) FIRESCAID 8 12 4
040040 ASHIDREN (086) (0) A HARSON 9 11 12
040040 ASHIDREN (086) (0) A HARSON 9 11 12
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0-22051 ALMANIZAR (1845) M BERRECURY 5 11 6
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SYLVAN CELEBRATION I GOING 5 11 1
111 HIGHBANK (38) DI MS M Revely 4 11 0
0 AMARDOCUROUS (7) E ASON 4 10 8

### 1.10 TEAL HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 added 4YO 2m

1.45 PINTAIL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 3m 6f 

BETTING: 11-4 Silver Stick, 3-1 The Bod Creb, 7-2 Honest Word, da Gold, 5-1 Romany Creek, 16-1 Spook Point, 68-1 Paddy M

### 

2.30 LONDONDERRY HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,700 added 3YO 7f

1 U4103 DZZA (46) (D) W Storey 5 11 0.

005- YOUNG FREDERICK (30) K Burke 9 7_ 005- YOLANG REDIRECT (30) K Burle 9 / _______ J F Egan 4
0400-2 RAMI (5) W Mar 9 7 4 .... D Sweeper (7) 2
4400-3 GHOSTLY APPARTON (7) JR Upson 9 4 ... D Sweeper (7) 2
450005- MINSTRY MATTHUS (60) Ms 8 Sanders 6 12 ... S Sentions 6
060-51 CHSULE CONCERNOR (2) P Hocken 8 9 1600 ... J Fortune 8
230000- MISS CARCITISME (25) M Rya 8 8 ... M Baind (5) 5
0000- SOVENEISM PRINCE (25) N Calagien 8 7 ... 5 Drome (3) 7
00000- MERLIN'S HONOUR (102) John Berry 8 1 ... J Quint 1
- 8 declared -

- 8 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Gnostly Appartique, 4-1 Reed, 8-2 Castle Governor, 8-1 Sovereign Prince, 6-1 Miss Carotison, 7-1 Mystery Matthias, 10-1 others 3.00 DOWN CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E)

£4.500 added 1m 2f  10 0013/20 NUTIVE RELD (28) | Roßenik 7 10 11 __ E Callegium (5) 
11 113177 OUTSET (49) (0) M Hammund 6 10 9 _____ A Dadble 
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13 53122-5 JUST SUPPOSEN (59) B Roßenied 5 10 3 _____ R Souple 
14 06345(1) MANOR COURT (470) (0) D Lemb B 10 2 ____ A Manners (7) 
15 123 DANN MESSION (60) M H Easterby 4 10 1 ____ T Viet 
16 023121/ HUSO (640) P Hociam 8 10 0 ____ J Callegium 
17 522250 DENOCEPTY GEOFICE (9) Mo 1 Sactar 7 10 0 ___ E Husbard (5) 
BETTING: 4-1 Aljador, 5-1 Jahpsto, 6-1 Cattlarest Kid, 13-2 Denn Bission, 7-3 Sunday Newstytcho, 8-1 Shannon Gien, 10-1 others 9 15556 NORTHERN TRIAL (USA) (290) K Burke 8 8 6 ... | Teth 9 10 060004 0000 S0 FA (40) (C) C Albert 4 8 1 ... N Adams 14 11 11000-5 SWEET DISORDER (6) 8 Meeten 6 7 12 ... J Quinn 4 2002044 SWITTE-DED FLYSR (2) JA Harris 7 7 12 ... C Adamson, 63 11 456500 THORNALMAN (222) 18 Project 5 7 12 ... 6 Berrisol 8 14 04546-2 JOSSER'S PRODILE (7) D Williams 4 7 10 ...... A Vancing 13 ... 14 dischared -...

3.35 FERMANAGH AMATEUR RIDERS' HAND-ICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m

31025-1 CUANGO (11) (C) R Holinshead 5 11 7 ______ Mr M Ricold 13 05/2000 SR THOMAS BEECHAM (25) (CD) S Dow 6 11 5 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr M Ricold 13 05/2000 SR THOMAS BEECHAM (25) (CD) S Dow 6 11 5 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 2 ... Mr T McCardio 03:50-7 PERSIAN HAZE (11) 8 NEMBR 7 10 2 Mes Diarra Joses 8 (03:50-7 RIVAL CRICIE (11) 6 NEMBR 7 7 10 2 Mes M Morte (6) 3 (31:2200 FLASHMAN (88) (0) 8 Usership 6 9 11 Mer J Libership 13 30:600 RICK OFSTER (81) 8 Mechan 4 9 8 Mes J Allens 5 (15:00-2 DOWN TOROP BOMBS (18:4) (11) (6) 0 Down 7 9 7 Mes J Fallens 5 (18:4) (11) (6) 0 Down 7 9 7

### Pete Sampras, the world No ed to meet the No 2, Conchita

We would have a World Cup than my players. Howard Wilkinqualifying game around October or son, Leeds manger, after their November and I would be in court. 4-2 FA Cup win at Derby. land football coach.

do with what is being written in the look at his fixture list. papers - they are comics anyway. 

These are troubled times. War-Fred Venables, the coach's father rington coach, Clive Griffiths, rei'm interested in managing no- flects on their 54-14 rugby league body but Newcastle United. Kevin defeat by St Helens, three days af-Keegan rules himself out of the ter they lost 80-0 to them.

18 have 18 months left of my con-sleeping glant with a great histotract and I won't be moving while by, but without players I cannot work I'm under that contract. As does miracles. We just about know what Bryan Robson.

you've hit a few in your time. row coach, means. Let's finish it in the tunnel. What | I don't care what anyone says, Terry McDermott is alleged to have it is difficult when family and friends sald to Bruce Rioch at Highbury are around. Ray Mingworth blames I'm feeling battered and bruised off-the-field distractions for England's and more in need of recuperation cricketers losing the final Test.

**QUOTES OF THE WEEK** 

for several weeks. Terry Venables Sunderland came here to play a explains why he resigned as Eng- cup tie but we treated it just like a normal game. Manchester United Terry's decision had nothing to manager Alex Ferguson forgets to

I am sad to leave a potential

Peter Roe, who resigned as Bar-

### LINGFIELD PARK

HYPERION 12.50 Copper Birght, 1.25 Kymin, 1.55 No Speeches, 2.30 Castle Governor, 3.00 Tribal Peace, 3.35 Cuango

GOING: Standard. STALLS: if and I'm outside; rest inside. GOUNG: SCHMARD. SI PALAS: 31 and 110 obsact, 102 acade.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers bes. 51-61.

Left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course is SE of frown on EXCOS. Linguistic railway station (served by London, Victoria) selptons cannot a Charles STON: All enclosures SR. CAR PARE: Club S3; remainder free.

BLINEREED FIRST TORE: Kymin (1.25).
WINDERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: Tartan Gem (1.55) was here on Samridy, Society (3.37) won here on Tuesday, Castle Governor (2.30) was here on Tuesday. Castle Governor (2.30) was here on Tuesday. The Confection (2.30) & Copperbright (12.50) travel 270 miles from P. Hastam's Middleham stable in North Yorkshire. Tartan Gem covers 236 miles from M. Britaam's Warthill yard in North Yurkshire.

12.50 ANTRIM LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) 

- 5 deciared -BETTING: 5-2 Mics Pyciopocket, 11-4 Lant But Not Least, 3-1 Dencing Jack, 5-1 Copper Bright, 11-2 Bouton D'O

1.25 TYRONE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 4 ROYAL LEGEND (S14) / Passos 4 9 0 _____ 1 McLaughin 18 

- 18 declared - 8ETTENE: 3-1 Allerandeld, 7-2 Kymin, 5-1 Royal Logend, 7-1 Double Jeopardy, 8-1 Discord, 10-1 Taskyar, 12-1 others 1.55 ARMAGH HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 1m 4f 

### Cavalier has odds and attitude on his side

**GREG WOOD** 

Victor Chandler and Ladbrokes are both bookmakers, but this afternoon Britain's punters get their annual chance to compare two very different approaches to the business of laying odds. The feature race in Britain is the Victor Chandler Chase at Ascot, fiercely competitive yet offering backers a fair crack of the whip. In Ireland, by contrast, the 10th running of the Ladbroke Hurdle is once again a hopeless raffle giving punters as little chance of success as possible.

Chandler, of course, is a bookie of the old school, shouting the odds on the rails and always prepared to back his own judgement by laying an extra point about a horse he does not fancy. Not that he will have any difficulty finding backers for all but a couple of the runners in his race this afternoon. As ever, it has attracted a high-quality field, but this year's renewal is one of the most competitive yet, with established performers from the top rank such as Egypt Mill Prince taking on upwardly mobile chasers like Front Street and Martin's Lamp.

Egypt Mill Prince has probably been attempting the impossible on his last two outings, when second both to Dublin Flyer in the Mackeson Gold Cup and then to Lonesome

WARWICK

12.25 General Tonic

1.30 Mistinguett

GOING: Good to Soft.

SIS ....

12.55 Sparkling Yasmin

LEOPARDSTOWN

Glory, the best chaser in Amerweighted like a struggling novice for his British chasing debut. Jenny Pitman's runner is painfully vulnerable to an improving, unexposed rival with a low weight, however, and to-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Seasonal Splendour (Ascot 1.00) NB: Trail Boss (Warwick 12.55)

day's contest has a long list of candidates.

form lines to connect them, but firm conclusions are rather harder to come by. Front Street, three times a winner this season, beat Martin's Lamp four weeks

Top jockeys: 7 / Tasife ~ Bonaima (1986), Roan. (1988)

four lengths, Front Street has ica, who for some reason was also beaten Gales Cavalier, who in turn has finished second to Kibreet and, last season, Dancing Paddy. Add in the ever-changing burdens involved and not one of those results is guaranteed to be repeated.

Confused? You should be. One obvious point, though, is that with so many credible winners, there can be no value in a short price about Front Street or, in particular, Martin's Lamp, who may contract still further this morning following Adrian Maguire's double at Ascot yesterday. In a difficult race, pref-There is no shortage either of crence must be for a runner at longer odds, and while Dancing Paddy is too long at 141, Gales Cavaher (2.10) at 10-1 is the

pick of the prices. That nice Mr Chandler also

go but is now 61b	worse	off	for	len	ds hi	s suj	ppor	t to t	he o	pen
LADBROK	EΗ	ΑN	DI	C A F	1	0 - Y	ΕA	R - 1	ΑL	E
Fate of the favourites:	1986 18	87 1	<b>88</b> 15	89 3	90	91 6	92 17	93 5	94 15	95 3
Withmen's place in begin										
Starting-prices:	5.1	52	5-3	16-1	20-1	7-1	20-1	50-1	10.1	25-1
Ages:	_6_	_6_	_6_	_6_	7	10	_6_	_5_	.7_	5_
######										
Profit or loss to £1 sta										
Percentage of winners										
Shortest-priced withner										
oneest priced winner.	Avustia	25-1	(199)	2}	·					
Top trainers: P Multins -										
				-	-					1

ing novice hurdle, another fascinating contest with any number of possible winners. This trip is far from certain to suit either Tennessee Twist or Wisley Wonder and BUTTERCUP JOE (nap 1.00) and Adrian Maguire are the pair to be on. The same jockey has every chance of recording a swift double on Seven Of Diamonds (1.35). The 23-runner contest at Leopardstown should be avoided - four of the last six winners have started at 20-1 or greater. Those who cannot resist should consider both the poor record of British challengers - which this year are headed by the Simon Dow-trained, Richard Dun-

> Simon Dow holds high hopes for Chief's Song, who has a stiff task in today's Ladbroke

At Warwick, As De Carres, L00: This is certainly the most com-petitive novice hurdle of the season so far and SEASONAL SPLEN-France, tackles British fences for DOUR is only just preferred as she is from a stable in such fine form. the first time following his She has looked an improved per-former both on the Flat and over jumps in the last year and receives up to 9lb. One of those conceding weight, Le Khoumf, should not be overlooked even though he is from the small stable of Milton Bradley.

1.35: Easy Buck was gifted a race at Haydock last week, while The Frog Prince threw away his chance with a bad mistake the same day. Spuffington is certainly well handicapped but does not have the same of an outling so the relecbenefit of an outing so the selec-tion is SEVEN OF DIAMONDS, who did well against leniently-handicapped Front Street last time. 000

2.10: BIG MATT will be better suited by this easy ground than his Mackeson conquerer Egypt Mill Prince and is still unexposed.

WARWICK 2.00: ALL FOR LUCK has ability but, with question marks against so many here, this is a contest to treat 

2.35: Jibber The Kibber failed to

chief threat to SIMPLE ARITH-METIC. The latter also fell last time out, but that was over Sandown's more formidable obstacles.

3.05: Terao reminded us of his talents with a sound victory at Ling-

field, but his jumping is unreliable Perhaps DO BE BRIEF is a better proposition. This marathon is perfect for this bold jumper. 000

3.40: Not as competitive as might first appear, because runners qual-ify for the Gold Card Final just by turning up. PHARANEAR won ce miles last time, but scored at this distance at Cheostow beating recent winner Buckhous

Boy. A strong pace is assured with Hops And Pops in the field. LEOPARDSTOWN

2.20: Chief's Song has excellent cre

dentials but the testing going count against his chance. Jeffell has been heavily backed in recent days, but complete here last week but is the DANCE BEAT looks better value

2.20 10th	LADBROKE HANDICAP HURDLE .00 2m Penalty Value £39,200	BBC1 & C4
1 20305/0 DESTRIES	RO N Fulong N Futorg 10 11 12	K E CTRibus
2/2521-3 DERRYMA	OYLE (Herb M Stanley) M Curningtom 7 11 6	M P Dever
3 101 140 <b>SQUARE</b> 8	SILK (Robert Ogden) A Turnell 7 11 5	P Carberry
4 9040011 CHIEF'S 9	SONG (Mrs Anne Devine) S Dow (GB) 6 11 2	
	ARNOGLE (G Stafford) A P O'Brien 7 10 12	
6 ≟2601F NEMBURO	(USA) (Turt Cay Racing) D Esworth (GE) 8 10 12	A McCabe
i 165516 SHAHAR	(OP Sharley) W J P O'Bren 5 10 12	B Sheridan
8 215111 KALDAN I	KHAN (John P McManus) A P O'Bren 5 10 11	C F Swan
9 245128 ARCTIC W	WEATHER (Richard Bornse) M J P O'Brien 7 10 10	T P Rudd
19 3612P4 GAMBOU	LING DOC (Mrs M () Lexpy) P Musins 6 10 10	TPTiescy
[ 11 31-2130 NON VINT	DAGE (Alan Marin) M Chapman (GB) 5 10 8	
	THORN (Peter Majone) M Bressi 6 10 7	
13 f1335~ REASILVE	A iP Senecial E J O'Grady 6 10 6	Shortt
14 C3S284 FAMILY W	VAY (John P McManus) A L T Moore 9 10 5	F Woods
	ATE KING (Chas N Whitans) A Whitans (62) 7 10	
16 023112 SAMBARA	A (Demure Syndicate) W P Mullins 5 10 4	

ELD bland course, Run-m of 240 yards.

Ellocoronase is west of city on B 1086. There is a regular bus service from the railway and one at both Warshold 1 m away's and Leanington Spa (over 2m away). ADMISSION: Club 24 (10 to 24-year-olds 8-b). Taitersalls 28; Course 55. CAR PARE: Club 53.0.

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Pipe = 50 winners from 113 runners gives a stocker ratio of 20 ° % and a less to a \$1 level stake of \$19.07; D Nicholson = 23 winners, 102 runners, 22.5%, +111.06; Mrs J Pimann = 15 winners, 81 runners, 18.5%, +595.43; N Gaselove = 10 sunners, 107 runners, 25.6%, +587.76.
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody = 35 wins, 105 rides, 36.2%, +519.71; J Osborwe = 15 wins, 51 rides, 18.1%, 52.6.07; A Magnire = 11 wins, 79 rides, 17.7%, 56.92; N Williamson = 11 wins, 57 rides, 19.8.51.3.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Full Of Oats (3,05) won at Warwick on Sat-

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Carrot Bay (12.55) has been sent 186 miles by M Ogle from Duckfastlands, Levon; Andrelot (2.00) sent 176 miles by P Bowen from Haverfordwest, Dyfed

12-25 HAMPTON HILL NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m

### 1.321-1. BANNERTMA (SP. PRAMOCK PREMOCK PREMOCK PARTIES ### 1.321-1.0 BELLEON (St.) (D) (BF) with G.A. E. Smith) M. Tompkins 5.11.13

2.4-102 GENERAL TOWN (P) "Stringt Running ID Gendolfo 9.21.12 Sophia

5.4-22 THROWER (31) Nach Owen Is Premoc 5.11.2 Sophia

5.4-22 THROWER (31) Nach Owen Is Premoc 5.11.2

5.11.53 DANK NIGHTINGALE (31) (D) Aless Le Clark O. Shernecol 6.11.5

5.11.53 DANK NIGHTINGALE (31) (D) Aless Le Clark O. Shernecol 6.11.5

5.11.53 DANK NIGHTINGALE (31) (D) Aless Le Clark O. Shernecol 6.11.5

5.11.53 SPAINER WRATHEREL (224) (Lary Arme Bermand O. Berman 7.11.1

5.12. SMESS MOUNTAIN (28) (N) O Aless In A Newsombe 7.11.1

15. SMESS MOUNTAIN (28) (N) O Aless In A Newsombe 7.11.1

15. SMESS MOUNTAIN (28) (N) O Aless In December 5.10.1

15. CHELDERING CHOICE (47) Ales A Promain P Machine 5.10.7

15. GROUP ALACLE (74) Ales Bencar Tarior R Almer 6.10.0

16. GROUP ALACLE (74) Ales Bencar Tarior R Almer 6.10.0

17. MAN TO THE LONG (61) Clarker R Flore 10.0

18. MAN'S THE LONG (61) Clarker R Flore 10.0

18. MAN'S The East 9.11.b.

- 16 declared Microstt weight 15st. The handcap weights flace & Mharts The Low 9st 11th.

#ETTIME: 3-1 General Tonic. 11-2 Robert, 7-1 Terrover, 15-2 Reyerlyke, Beirol, 8-1 Dark Mighthegale, 10-1 Systs Mountain, Tacseer, 12-1 Speaker Westheral, 14-1 Manulate, 16-1 others

1995: Sharmack 5 11 0 J Porton 5-1 U Jenkinsi 5 fen

12.55 LEASOWES MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 added 2m 4f 110yds

2m 4f 110yds

ALCAN BUE (A2): Spined Tropulating Collet, M. Hermon, 5 119 Mr. C. Borner (3)

05-0 CARRY'S COTTAGE (31) The Cottage Partnershot J Energy 5 Mr. M. Daly (7)

CARRY'S COTTAGE (31) The Cottage Partnershot J Energy 5 Mr. M. Daly (7)

CARRY'S COTTAGE (31) The Cottage Partnershot J Energy 5 Mr. M. Reney

DODE AND (Annual Mon) My Section Montager 11 9 Renewal J Manday (7)

3-3-4 POUTROT RORED (30) (BF) (Lary Cottage) O Brook 6 11 9 Mr. Element

1-55 BOLDEN DRIME (31) (BF) (Many Cottage) O Brook 6 11 9 Roberto (3)

2-1 HOURS DRIME (31) (BF) (Many Cottage) O Brook 6 11 9 Roberto (3)

2-1 HOURS DRIME (31) (BF) (Many Cottage) O Brook 6 11 9 Roberto (3)

2-1 HOURS DRIME (31) (BF) (Many Cottage) O Brook 6 11 9 Roberto (3)

3-4 HOURS PARM (25) (FR About K Belly 5 11 9 Roberto (3)

4 HOURS PARM (25) (FR About K Belly 5 11 9 Roberto (3)

6 KEY TO MOVADE (8) (Fr Leone Many Cottage 5 11 9 Roberto (3)

C. SARSTONN LAD (Many Mon) (Many Cottage 7 11 9 Roberto (4)

C. SARSTONN LAD (Many Mon) (Many Cottage 7 11 9 Mr. P. Hensley (5)

SARSTOND (MAN) (Many Mon) (Many Cottage 7 11 9 Mr. P. Hensley (5)

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2.35 Simple Arithmetic (nb)

17 203371 - JEFFELL (Thomas Balley) A LT Moore 6 10 2.
18 6-23-431 - BOOMCASE (Adeat 60) Ltd) D Eswarth(GB) 9 10 1
19 60638-4 - RANG THE ALARM THAS Bernather Current) M M Lynch 8 10 0.
20 442211 - BRANK STATEMENT (Mrs Arb Fernang) T J Taglie 5 9 12
21 23113-1 - DANCE BEAT (Mrs Petrok Flynn) P J Hym 5 9 12.
22 20516-1 LEGGAGH LADY (Mrs Petrok Flynn) P J Flynn 5 9 12. 

woody-ridden Chief's Song-and

the success of Paddy Mullins and

Arthur Moore, Multins's Gam-

bolling Doc has clearly been laid

out for the race, but then so have

one of the best chasers in

somewhat bizarre appearance in

the Tolworth Hurdle at San-

down seven days ago. Today's

trip and company will be much

more to his liking - the Grand

National is his principal target.

A safe round of jumping is the

most we can expect from Moor-

croft Boy, racing today for the

first time since a near-fatal fall

at Aintree in November 1994.

most of the others.

PORTM GUIDE

Demymoyle, fourth in the 1994 Ladforke, was second last year and made a promising reappearance when three lengths third to DANCE BEAT at Paryhouse 12 days ago. Michael Cumingham expects his getting to come on for that run but he has plenty of weight for a race like this and lessica Hamington's progressive mare may come out on top. Willie Mutlins's Sambara is another improving mare who has strong place claims, while Chilef's Song has done well to win his last two outings and looks the best of the raiders. Arthur Moore's pair, Family Wary and Jeffell, will both have their supporters, but I expect the former to improve a lot on his reappearance and come closest to adding to Moore's impressive record.

Selection: DANCE BEAT.

1.30 RED ROSE JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £6,000

ELPIDOS (28) (As Marg Virter) M Hommond 11.0 . HEATHYARDS ROCK (7) (L.A. Morgan) R Homesheed 1.

OP MASON (7) IS P Traces S Medior 11 0 als PROSTY () G Wight W Jows 11 0 3 BAUTES A (49) (Herbry Reang Buses PLI M Hammond 11 0... O RANGER SLOAME (8) (G Fierro G Fierro 11 0

1985: Yhat's is foct 10 11 6 6 Backy 9-4 IP Nichols 5 car.

An absence of more than three years will put many off Dusty Million, but his connections would not have persevered without good cause. Mark Richards is not going to rush him with anything and a watering brief is entirely sensible, but Dusty Miller, the winner of two out of three nonce chases in 1992-93, is not handicapped out of this, despite the 12st. Curidly Dake is not georgia any younger at but was a winner at Sandown for Nick Henderson last season and is now heck with Geoff Hubbard. Scole runs for Hubbard, too, with Curidly Dake's jockey, sporting a distinguishing red cap. Fair Brother is handicapped to take advantage on the day he just in a clean round of jumping, but it could be a painful wait and Definition of the profit good of a return wait eight days ago, but not perhaps that first run since the freeze-in was just needed. James The First is fine when he can dominate, while Distinctive sank in the Lingfield mire last time and can be longuen that lapse. He has a fighting chance off Josephie Archich Kings Cherry is a possible, while Philip's Woody has been running creditably in binkers. All For Lock, Kantish Piper and Lake Million cannot be written off despite doubts about their current worth. Selection: DENVER BAY

2.35 WESTMINSTER TAXI INSURANCE NOVICE CHASE C4 (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

109-17 PALADUTH BAY (7) James Marioni S Sherwood 7 11 8.

220-11 AR SHOT (10) (No. Peter Proxima) D Notation 5 11 5.

150-1 SEEK THE FAITH (USA) (52) (R H F Mactrews) M Sheppard 7 11 5.

SCOLO SEEK THE FAITH (USA) (SE) IR H F Nacrieval M Sheppard 7 11 5 (6-5-22 MODES A 5-9 Decreme Resignor R Alex 7 11 5 (1) 12 2-1 MODES A 5-9 Decreme Resignor R Alex 7 11 0 (1) 12 3-1 MODES A 5-9 Decreme Resignor O Bernard 8 11 0 (1) 12 3-1 MODES A ROLL WHITE COLOR (A 10 Decreme IN 1 Modes Decreme IN 1 Decreme IN 1 MODES A MODES A FEBRUARY OF (A 10 Decreme IN 1 Modes Decreme IN 1 0 (1) 10 0 (1) 13 3-1 MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MODES A MO

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SELATAN Scales Recry D Gendata 11 0

SHEPHEROS REST (7) The Oct Dozen S Metar 11 0

PSO HURSH CROSS (44) 67 Higgman S Nagat 10 9

MESTAGAIN (R I Bassett S Shewood 10 9

SHET AGAIN (R I Bassett S Shewood 10 9

SO SWIVEL (8) IRP: Nas Claire Smith D Nationari 10 9

added 4YO 2m

FORM CUIDE

This course attracts decent-sized fields summer and winter, but there is a nice blend of quality mixed in today and this nowice chase is full of interest with the Supreme Nowice Hurdle third SMPLE ARTHMETIC sure to test them all granted a clear round. Michael Motley has found this a tucky course in the past, and perhaps that augurs well for Simple Anthrinetic, owned by his write. Every inch a clear on looks. Simple Anthrinetic sloped and left at Sandown last time after an educational first run there beland Certainly Strong. Even if he had been rolled in the pack and the debut, he might have been overcome by his merchander. in trying to keep tabs on the pacey winner (on the mark again yesterday). Trip, going and course look fine for him here, but Seek The Felth and Air Shot are treatous vinners to course took fine for him here, but Seek The Falth, and Air Shoot are previous winners to tear. Seek The Falth, in perticular, seems likely to stime at this trip after finishing so strongly to pp Challenger but Lise over two miles in the Chepstow mud. That was 52 days ago, so he might just lack a cutting-edge here, but he'll pay to follow. Illaber The Killaber was a bit too keen, falling at the fourth, on his Warwick chasing bow, but this grand, scopey gelding, winner of Chepstow's Tote Silver Trophy over hundles, is going to make a useful chaser in time. Arctic Wings and The Caustania are amongst the others ones capable of stating a claim and Second Call, who hash't got round in three chasing attempts, has nevertheless shown a fair bit of ability, too. Her mare's allowance will be a great advantage when she evermally sorts out her jumping. Setection: SIMPLE ARtiThMETIC.

### 3.05 TOTE NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) C4 BETTING: 4-1 Swivel, 11-2 Missingwett, 7-1 Watch My Line, 8-1 Kilcoran Bay, 9-1 High Petriarch, 2.00 EDWARD COURAGE CUP (HANDICAP CHASE) C4 C1212 DUSTY MULER (1129) 09 12 Marsho Dava Emergrass) S Serviced 20 12 0 M Richas 1100FP ALL FOR LUCK (28) (6) 60 Cosg) M Fpc 11 12 0 Long 1100FP ALL FOR LUCK (28) (6) 60 Cosg) M Fpc 11 12 0 Long 1100FP ALL FOR LUCK (28) (6) 60 Cosg) M Fpc 11 12 0 Long 1100FP ALL FOR LUCK (28) (6) 60 Cosg) M Fpc 11 12 0 Long 1100FP ALL FOR LUCK (28) M G S Gébory M Gazeles 11 12 0 Long 11 12 P R Farm 302-0F ANDRELOT (50) (60) H Long P Boneth 9 11 7 Long 1100FP ALL FOR LUCK (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN (18) M GREEN

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rme 9st 12th, Full Of Oats 9st 6th, Alice Smith 8st 3th,

1995: Wilstord 12 10 7 W Marston 7-2 (Mrs J Pithani 7 ren FORM GUIDE MAAMUIR, a course womer over three miles and a quarter, is likely to cope with the extra distance and is the up-and-coming runner in this race in which he gets 17th from the interesting French recruit, As Des Carrès. Majamur is developing into a useful handicapper and was an easy women at Towocster early less month. He was impressive, too, in the George Coney Challenge Cup here last February when trained by Chris Broad, it is difficult to know just what to expect of As Des Carrès, but he boasts high-class chasing form in France and will profit from last week's hundles pite-opener. Mooreond Boy has the credentals to go well but he returns from a lay-off and his fitness will need to be spot-on over this scanding trip. Teranc is officen let down by his jumping but did nothing wrong at Lingfield lest time and one with authority. This time, are less an extra mile ahead of him. Felia CO Quits wants a sta-

won with authority. This time, he has an extra mile ahead of him. Full Of Cats wants a sta- mina test but Maamur 100ks a nixich better. Selection: MAAMUR
3.40 WARWICK GOLD CARD HANDICAP HURDLE (QUAL C4 IFIER) (CLASS B) £8,000 2m 4f 110yds
1 12P110 ALLEGATION (282) (CD) (Martin Proc Racing Club) M Proc 6 12 0
2 U1105-1 HOPS AND POPS (66) (O) (The Happy Band) R Almer 9 11 1
3 303-F10 BELL STAFFBOY (36) (CD) (K W Bell & Son Ltd) C Broad 7 10 11 Laureace
4 121-0-4 ENCORE UN PEU (FR) (35) Nocent Naty M Pipe 9 10 8
5 2106-24 FUZZY LOGIC (30) (Chellenham Racing Ltd) N Twiston-Dawes 8 10 7
6 PORDO12- PRINGADA (305) (C) (D) (Mrs Margaret McGlores R Rowe 13 10 7
7 6-41311 PHARANEAR (31) (D) (Stainless Threaded Fasterers) D Nicholson 6 10 6R Johnson (3)
8 1P/12FO- DO SE HAVE (305) Peters and Lea Mrs J Pitman 8 10 6
9 OLISF3-1 PLEASURE SHARED (70) (Tony Exies) P Hobbs 8 10 2
10 031410- CASH CHASE (281) (0) (Stephen Ryan) 0 Bramen 8 10 0
11 212243+ BOLLINGER (627) (D) (W E Galet I Giffort 10 10 0
12 3-46214 MARAR (31) (Ms Margaret Sampson) R Rove 6 10 0
13 0/1- COUNTRYMASTER (341) (Cris Bresher) C Eserton 7 10 0
14 3/P10-5 ANGELO'S DOUBLE (12) () Hermood) R Buckler 8 10 0 B Powell
15 11:0/4 NEEDNOOD NEUPPET (768) (D) (D G Blagden) A J Wason 9 10 0
16 2261-20 PURIETTO (28) (Sherebrook Park Management) M Hammond 6 10 0Mr C Bonner (3)
17 01:04-0 Religiousia (25) (John Streeman) B Carriadge 8 10 0
7,7

Abstract weight 10st. The translarp weight Bolfinger 9st 11th, Karar 9st 6th. Countrymaster 9st 3th. Angelo's Double 9st 1th. Needwood Napper 9st, Furfeto 8st 11th, Rimousid 8st 8th. Glen Wingle 7st 7th. BETTING: 4-1 Pharamont, 5-1 Hops And Pope, 11-2 Pleasure Shared, 7-1 Escore Un Peu, 8-1 Allegation, 10-1 Paxy Logic, 12-1 Ball Staffety, Do Be Have, 14-1 Pragada, 16-1 others 1969; Mescre Man 7 10 6 D O'Sullivan 14-1 (C Weston) 24 ran

18 2111-U GLEN MIRASE (33) () Coombet M Coombe 11 10 0 Mr G Baloes (7) - 18 declared -

FORM CLUDE Mud-lowing Encore Un Peu will be sheper for his pleasing comeback run at Haydock last month and you can't go too far wrong with Martin Pipe at present. Even so, PLEASURE SHAREED, on either Prilip Hobbs acquired from Kim Bailey, impressed when scoring it Chepstow in Noember. He can improve hyther, which he will need to, and the booking of Jeson Titley takes the eye. Hops And Pope is a useful mare who will need to be right on the ball to win from the front in this, while Pharameer is on the tiggade and has good claimer Richard Johnson on his side. Angelo's Double is one note, but he is out of the handicap this time and Bell Staffboy is preferred. Selection: PLEASURE SHARED



















IRISH

ASCOT 12.55; 1 ACT OF FAITH IC LEASE.

12.55: I. ACH UP FAIR IN LEASE MOSS 25-1; 2. Whathabb 5-2 fair 3. Steel Moss 20-1; 20 fair, 1-4; 12; N. Gaselle, Lipper Lambourie, Total 522,70; £4.40, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.80, £1.4(0, £1.8

2.35: 1. Certabely Strong Admired. 5-5: 2. Super Coin 20-13. Flarce 40-1-6 ran. 13-5 for Admired Conf. 10-12. 9 values of Service Courts. Total 21-52. 2. Super Coin 70-11 3. Pierce 40-11
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7.1.2 Unguided Misude 11.4 for, 3. Rm Up the Flag 5-1.9 ran. 5, 20. (I) Nond-sm, Temple Guing, Yoter 57.90; £0.30, £1.60; £2.00, 05; £15.00, CSF, £25.37, In-Cast 196.25. Tra: 220.00. Ness Decre Dove, Gartison Salarinati, Yorkshine Gale,

3.35: 1 TREASURE AGAIN (D.3,me) 14 2: 2. Jethib 14-1: 3. Lucky Blue 12-1, 14 2.2. Justilio 14-2: 3. Lucky Blue 12-1. 14 ron. 7-2 just John 4: 5th 4: 5. 9. Mer Merta Jones. Lamourn. Teles. 115-80: 54-60. 58-00. 53-60. 09: 5163-70. OSP. 517-721. Treas on 190-21. Tree 14-69-30. Jackpott con unit 511,458-78 to Ascot for Placepott 99:350. Quadpott 524-150. Place 6: 1554-70. Place

MUSSELBURGH 12.45: 1 DIRECT ROUTE :P Carberry 4-2. Stash The Cash 10-1: 3. Camaen Valley 15-1 13 ran 11-9 5a Torrous Resea. 1-12 "Mouse conson Cond. Total 54-40: 11-30 - £1-90 - £00-90 - £0-10 - £5-10 - £5-10 £38.75. 17:: £82.00: £103.96 of to Ascot

RACING RESULTS 8. (M Hammond, Middleham). Tota: £5.10; £1.80, £1.40, £2.90, DF: £14.20, CSF: £36.45. Tro: £7.10, 1.45: 1. YOMBERLEY BOY (P Niveri) 4-

1.45: 1. NumbersLet Bot (Present 4-1: 2. Fanny Rose 3-1 fay 3. Brackenth-waite 5-1, 12 ran. 10, 2. (Mrs. M Reveley, Saithurn). Tota: £5.90: £2.20, £2.20, £2.50, DF: £10.70, CSF: £15.72. Treast. 556.53. The £13.10.
2.15: 1. FIVE TO SEVEN (A Dobbru 5-2;
2. Know-No-No 10-1: 3. Tarc Card 150-1
15res. 11-10 Sav Aragos (pulled up). 15, 12IC Thornton, Middleham). Tote: £3.10;
£1.50, £2.40, £51.30. DF; £36.40. CSF:

26.11. Tito: not won: £106.56 of to Ascor 3.45 today. NP: Guier-A 2.45: 1. LWAIRHEN (P Num) 8-1: 2. Bue thoma: 10-1: 2. Don't Tell Judy 33-1: 15 res. 5-2 tar Topsanyer (5th). 4, 7. (Mis M Reveloy. Salthum). Total: £8.50; £2.10, £2.10. The First Science (12.1), 15/10. 41. 15/10. 64.1 Tio. 15/4.80. 12.55: 1. Dissentor (G Carer) 12-1: 2. Kins 8-1; 3. Stand Tell 2-1 fav. 12 res. 13 2. U Glover. Total: £1.60; £2.20, £2.40, £1.70. DF: £110.10. CSF £105.76. Treast: £55.70. Tine: £68.80. £1.40, £13.60, DF; £31.70, CSF; £83.40,

Totale: £2,311,49.
3,15: 1. CHARMING GALE (A Word) 7-1;
2. Puritan 9-2; 3. Potato Mon 66-1, 9 ran.

£2.70, £1.30, £7.60. DF: £10.40. CSF: £36.30. Tricast: 51.740.85. 2.56.30, Infests 2.1, 740,96.

3.45: 1. NATINE (ROWN) (A Watt) 33-1:

2. Linio 4-5 fay; 3. D'Arbiay Street 9-2. 7
part, 5, ½, (Mrs. S Brachurne, Cuper). Total:
22.00; 156.40, 51.10, DF: £15.40, CSF:
£59.03. Placepot: £126,80, Quadpot: Not wor; £47.10 cf* to Assot tuday. Place 6:
£56.6.42. Place 5: £124.87 £595.43. Place 5: £164.87.

SOUTHWELL 12.30: 1 MODEST HOPE Was D Kettervell 10-1; 2. Mr Moriarty 5-4 fav; 3. Beaussan 8-1.9 ran. 2, 2, (B Richmord). Tota: £11.00; £2.10, £1.10, £3.70. DF: £12.80. CSF:

2255.70. Inc: 168.80.
1.20; 1. AJDAR (Miss S Velleway) 13-2;
2. Caider Ming 2-1; 3. Comtac's Lagend
6-5 tax. 7 ran. Sh Ind. 8. (Miss Gay Kelleway). Total: £6.50: £3.20, £1.00. OF:
£33.40, CSF: £19.39. Total: £23.58. NR.

1.55: 1. EULOGY (TAshley) 12-1: 2. Supermodel 12-1: 3. El Nido 7-4 fav. 13 ran. 44. 20. 16 Burks. Tota: £11.20; £3.20, £4.00, £1.70. DF: £167.60. CSF: £144.41. 2.25: 1. FAIREY FIREFLY (I. Chamodi) 10-1; 2. Serious Fact 7-2 lav. 3. My Cherrywell 5-1. 11 ran. 4/1, 14/4 (M Camacho) Total £17.20; £3.30, £2.20, £2.20. Dus Forecast: £34.90. CSF: £43.42. Totast.

2.58: 1. CELESTIAL CHOIR (R Lapper) 6-4 tor; 2. What's the Verdict 6-1; 3. Tertan Gem 7-1.6 ran. 13, 5. U Eyre, 1. Teles: £1.90: £1.30, £2.80, DE: £4.50. CSF: £10.21 3.25: 1. FIRST GOLD (S D Williams) 10-12. At The Saruy 11:2; 3. Sense of Priority 5-4 (av. 14 mm. 194, 39); U.Whartoni, Tote: £8.50; £2.30; £3.00; £12.00 DF: £12.10. CSF: £68.73. Tno: £29.80.

3.55: 1. MAPLE BAY (P Roberts) 3-1 fax;

2. Benjamins Law 6-1; 3. Barrel of Hope 8-1. 13 ran. 3, 6. (A Baley). Tote: £3.20; £1.80, £1.90, £2.50. DF: £18.20, CSF £23.06. Incast: £127.35. Tho. £20.20. Quadpat: £19.00. Placepot: £45.60.

### **ASCOT**

2.45 Supreme Genotin 1.00 Seasonal Splendour 3,15 Hall Of Tullow 1.35 Seven Of Diamonds 3.45 Morstock 2.10 BIG MATT (nap)

Tight-hand course with testing untuil finish. ■ rappe-mand course want tenung upons upon.
■ Raccourse is near junction of A329 and A330. Easy access from M3 (June 3) and messecourse is near journal of ward and whot, easy access from M3 (June 3) and M4 (June 6). Helicopter-landing facility at course (Heathrow 15m). Railway station pertise from London Waterloot adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members \$16 (Junior Members 16-25) years, half price): Grandsand & Paddock \$10; Silver Eng \$5. CAR PARK: Nos 1-3, \$4, remainder free.

ELADING TRAINERS: M Pipe — 16 winners from 73 runners at a ratio of 21.0 % going a profit to a \$1 level stake of +\$13.72; N Twiston-Davies — 16 winners, 85 going a profit to a \$1 level stake of +\$13.72; N Twiston-Davies — 16 winners, 85 runners, 17.0%, +\$19.21; O Sherwood — 14 winners, 57 runners, 24.6%, 51.47; J Gifford — 11 winners, 11 runners, 12.6%, 540.57; J runners, 23.9%, 511.36; N Headerson — 11 winners, 71 runners, 14.0%, 516.87; K C Balley — 8 winners, 41 runners, 19.5%, 541.42.

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: J Osborne — 32 winners, 109 rides, 29.4%, +\$47.21, R Dawwoody — 17 winners, 106 rides, 10%, 546.11; A Magnire — 14 winners, 79 rides, 17.7%, 517.84; Et A Piccgerald — 13 winners, 72 rides, 18.1%, +\$16.50, A P McCoy — 8 winners, 31 rides, 29%, +\$28.63.

P McCoy — 8 winners, 31 rides, 29%, +\$28.63.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Uncle Ernie (2.10) travels 224 miles from J Physics.

810	S NITTON	SUBJE DI POLICI TOTALI	
	L.00	VICTOR CHANDLER NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £12,000 added 2m 4f £8,571	BBC1
1		The resource and that found \$ Lough I M Readley 5 11 8	
2	3633-21	TENNESSEE TWIST (50) (Halewood International Lath Mrs. J. Priman 6 11	8W Marston
3	-20-21	WASLEY WORDER (53) (Waley Golf Partnership) N Treston-Daves 6 11 (	C Llewellen
4	00-4111	BUTTERCUP JOE (30) OR C F Fases) D Nicholson 6 11 4	A Mastrice
5	30-212	BUTTERCUP JOE (SU) IN C. P. Pages J. D. Pages J. Montheron E. 11.4	M & Fitzeerahi
6	1313-1	ESULLENT SQUANAME (28) (Lynn Wison) N Herderson 5 11 4	موامعها الروب
7	52-142	MEEP IT ZEPPED (37) (Mis Lusa Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 6 11 4	
Ė	444325	exercise rats (the first) ((tensionly) P   BOWN)   first > 11.4 mm	
9	20/0.0	APIE DE (52) (\$ (3resh) 1 light 6 21 D	G upum
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ü	0.00	RECURAGE TRUE (78th Alles-April & Rairuse & 11 ()	
12	DOC EN	WELTE EXCEPTED RESEAU (2007) IN C Banks M BANKS ( 1,1 V	и экуппе
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	A FE 175	OLD ARCHIVES (70) Lions Malgoon) D Baserth 7 11 0	P Holes
15	U-10405	SEA FREEDOM (Mass B Searc) & Barting 5 11 0	A P McCov
16		STARLIGHT FOOL (50) (Smon E Bourd K Bailey ? 110	رممطة ا
17	Q/-U	STANGEST POOL (BU) (SIND) E BUND N ONE) 1 11 0	D Briddwiller

JQ.	ound, m	y find this a bit too hot. Selection: BUTTERCLP JOE
	1.35	STEEL PLATE AND SECTIONS HANDICAP CHASE BBC1 (CLASS B) £12,000 2m 3f 110y £8,325
ı	45 D 14	WONDER MAN (FR) (57) (E S & W V Robins) N Hengerson 11 12 0
1 2	21F5-11	EASY BUCK (7) (CD) (J P M & J W Cooky N Teleston-Deales 9 11 4C Name
3	41/PKP	RICHWILLE (259) (D) (Major-Gen R L T Burges) K Bestry 10 10 13
4		UNICLE ELI (637) (James Burley) R Ainer 13 10 6
5	2215-24	THE FROG PRINCE (7) (BF) (Robert Cooper) N Gaselee 8 10 5
6	112-333	SEVEN OF DIAMONDS (49) (CD) (T J Keeping) R Ather 11, 10.5A Magnife
7	132112-	SPUFFINGTON (287) (D) United Chopes J Gefore 8 10 2 P Hide
Ŕ		REPEAT THE DOSE (8) (CD) (A T A Wates) T Casey 11, 10 0

- 8 declared -BETTING: 3-1 The Frog Prince, 7-2 Easy Book, Seven of Diamonds, 5-1 Sporfington, 6-1 Repeat The Dose, 7-1 Wooder Nam, 18-1 others 1995: Crystal Sport 8 11 10 J Oktome 4-1 (I Badong) 8 ran FORM GUIDE

John Grifford has always said Spuffington will improve with age and he's in with a real shout off this leafter weight despite being without recent action. Whatever his lofe today, watch out for him when he's put over three miles. Jame Osborne won on THE FROG PRINCE at Kempton last season and is called into action again on this mudicious. The getding failed to confirm the kempton superionity over Smittris Band at Haydock last Saturday when a mistake when leading at the fourth last stooped him in his tracks. Humping 11st 71b there and now with over a store less to shoulder, The Frog Prince can reverse first-time-out Newbury ruming with Easy Buck with the 4lb pull. Easy Buck was the stronger familied of the pair at Newbury and just held on after going clear from two out. A shade lucky at Haydoch last Saturday when the leader Moroeli came down at the final fence, Easy Buck races of the same mark but, with 15th more on his back. Wonder Man was besten with a by weight here last time and this longer ting may not be the answer, while Seven Of Diamonds has been a bit disapporning this term and probably wants better ground.

2.10 VICTOR CHANDLER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS BBC1) A) (Grade 2) £40,000 added 2m £25,975						
1 1357-25 NAMER (FR) (42) (CD) Um Leves S Christian 8 12 0						
2 300-322 STORM ALERT (7) (CD) (BF) (Mrs Dawn Perrett) D Nicholson 10 11 7C Mande						
3 41U40-P UNCLE ERME (28) (CD) (Lady Lloyo Wetcen   ForGerald 11 11 5						
4 00-3122 EGYPT WILL PRINCE (43) (CD) (BF) (5 A Webb) Mrs J Primari 10 11 2						
5 F3421-2 DANKCHIG PADDY (56) (CD) (Bychance Record) K (ummigham-Brown 8 11 2 C Mande						
6 //1223-2 MARTIN'S LAMP (28) (D) is Mrs FC Welch) D Nestorson 9 11 1						
7 11:29-22 GALLES CAVALLER (49) (CD) (Scalight Racing) D Gandolfo 8 10 12						
8 1112-US HRISH BARON (7) (D) (Mass C.A. facties) R Hooges 9 10 7						
9 1330-11 KEREET (ST) (CD) (Terry Warter: P Hobbs 9 10 5						
10 65:1-111 FRONT STREET (28) (CD) Mrs. Jean R Bishopi 5 Sheriocci 9 10 4 J Octome						
11. 1531-23 BIG MATT (63) (CD) (T Berfielt and Mr W Brown) N Henderson 8 10 4 M A Pitzgeraid						
_ 44 sheatanad _						

-11 declared Minimum weight 10st 4lb: True hordicap weights: Front Street 10st 2th, Big Mart 10st 11b
SETTING: 11-3 Marthr's Lawn, 3-1 Front Street, 11-2 Kibreot, 7-1 Egypt Mill Prince, 8-1 Big Matt,
10-1 Sales Caveller, 12-1 Storm Alert, 14-1 Dancing Paddy, 16-1 High Baron, 25-1 Uncle Erne.

1995: Martine's Son 8 10 9 R Farrant 3-1 (T Forster 8 ran

1995: Martie's Son 8 10 9 R Farant 3-1 in Forsteri 8 ran

FROM GAIDE

This tooks a metich between GALES CAVALIER and Rig Math. Gales Cavalier's lact vim
was gained on the course when he jumped brilliantly to beet Absolories Lady with
Dancing Paddy held when falling at the second last. Gales Cavalier's Lady with
Dancing Paddy no 120b better terms and two runs this term will have put him spot on for this
task. With regular partner Mark Dower at Leopardstown, David Bridgester comes in for
a decent spere on Gales Cavalier, who gets a 5th pull with Nübreet on running here on
his reappearance and a megitty 17th advantage with Front Street on Newbury running
eight days laier. Front Street didn't win it that easily and he's up 10th for his
subsequent course win from Martin's Lamp, who led until nearing the first lence. That
was a decent first run of the season by Martin's Lamp, who is now 8th better in with
front Street. A muslower when with losh Gifford, Martin's Lamp might just been ridden
with more restraint today because he stopped to nothing at Sandown last Martin. Big
Mart has the stamma for further and will be staying on strongly at the finish, as he did
when beaten a length by Egypt Mill Prince on his reappearance here. He gets a slip
put for that and again ran well in the Mackeson when third after a last-tence mustale.
On this softer ground, Big Mart can outstay Egypt Mill Prince today and this pairs form
was given a fine boost by Dublin Prives to Mincanton on Thursday. Storna Allert will do
well to wan this at the weights, while Nutrect may not go on this ground despite his
flung for the track. Setection: GALES CAVALIER.

2.45 DURHAM RANGER NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £3,989

_		Canca Em Emples I chearly Talle 20,000
1		MACK THE IDETE (3S) (D) ID & G Meros; M Pipe 7 11 9
2	1430	PERSIAN SAINT (63) (Whatcombe Manor Racing Stables) D Elsmorth 5 11 9 P Holley
3	125-0	ASHWELL BOY (7) (BF) (A B S Racing) P Hobbs 5 11 F
4		CIRCUS COLOURS (248) (S Poses) J Jankons 6 11 6 Mr Perrett
5		CORSENALL POINT (Mrs S N J Errestras; J Gelote S 11 6 S MeNeil
6	90541	DECEDE YOURSELF (70) (David F Walson) T Thomson Jones 6 11 6
7	- V	HEADWIND (Pel-mel Partners)   Grioro 5 11 6
ė	2	LORD ROOSLE (42) The Frage Pastershor I Gross 5 11 6
ğ	30	PA D'OR (30) (The Peoples Express Parinerstro) J Galloro 6 11 6
10		RELATIVE CHANCE (8) (Mass 5 Douglas-Pennath) I lying 7 11 6 G Upton
_	www.	
ï		ROLFE (NZ) (Starley W Caste) D Nationson 6 11 6
12		SHADEFINAN (One Baru R Avenurs: 5 11 6 S Ryan (7)
13		SER OLIMER (Ms S A Joynes B Peace 7 11 6
14		SUPPLEME GENOTEN (4) (BF) WE STURL J Dr. 7 11 6
15		WAYFARERS WAY (USA) (51) Lac: Terranti N Henderson 5 11 6 M A Fitzgerald
16	56	ASSET (EL. (10) (Mrs Kenel Humptvey: P. Roue 5 11 1 E Murphy
17	a	FANTASTIC PLEET (7) (Mes 15 Dayle: Lies 15 Dayle 4 10 8
18		VICTORY TEAM (R.) Large, G Exerc 4 10 6 A P McCoy
_		an dealers a

— 18 declared — BETTIVE: 9-2 Mack The Knife, 7-1 Headwind, Supreme Gruotin, 8-1 Persian Solnt, Rolly, Lord Rooble, Shadiwan, 12-1 others 1996: Chef's Song 5 11 12 J Ostome 100-30 'S Don't 10 rat.

3.15 PETER ROSS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £21,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £14,175							
1	1F11-11	Heat OF TULLOW (A2) (D) 12st; Harris D Nictolson 7 12 0					
1 2	2-00051	SO FAR BOLD (84) (D) (371) Poyrion F Doumen (Fr) 5 12 0					
3	U27112	COURT MELODY (6) (BF) (U.E.) Carters P Nations 8 11 11					
4	125 172	DARK HONEY (7) Pager Sayer S Doe 11 11 11					
5	1111	MARWELL LAD (43) (H VIBISSION R 459 7 11 11 Mr R Nutbell					
6		CAPENMENT (1) IB H People to J have 1117					
7		CO BALLISTIC (28) (As 3.1 125) Fast 1 O Shea 7 11 7					
8	PF203	SENDA (23) (Mr. 14 A. T. f. st. ) (G. fac. 10 11 7					
ě	10	PARAS FASHION (FR) (7) (Felic Yessa), N Tuston-Daves 5 10 11					
- 9 declared ~							
BETTRAG: 3-1 Hig Ot Tullow, 7-2 Harwell Lad, 9-2 So Far Bold, 5-1 Dark Honey, 8-1 Court Melody,							

10-1 Paris Fashion, 12-1 others 1995: Brave Highlander 7 11 7 J October 7-1 /J Geford: 6 ran

TA APTITEAL AND GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS RI

	Ŀ	<u>3.45</u>	£10,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £7,328	6)
	1		TAGS (256) (C) (D) 'B i helhi (K Turstur-Dares 6 11 10	
	2	5.012	SOHRAB (12) (D) filts Joanse Rotards M Pipe 6 11 6	nyle
ı	3	104-400	BALANAK (USA) (12) (D) H H 59'e. D Ge coro 5 11 6	an c
ļ	Į Į		CHERRY S LAD (36) (0) Mrs Same Bainer Hiller coasts 6 11 3 M A Place	
1	5	243-150	ROMANCER (42) (D) Wat Arrest 1 Truster Dates 5 11 1	ellyn.
	5	6120-50	AMANCIO (USA) (57) (D) Paul - Lotae: G Harrook 5 10 11 M Pe	arett
1	7	1-73-00	KINGSPOLD PET (42) (D) (5 % (1/2 1/1 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	1120
1	9	521210	CRIMATE (12) (D) Secreta Series Remotion C Main 5 10 11 _ Munedach Met	v (7)
1	9	255-006	STATALACK (31) (D) "15 Y E Suide D Exports 5 10 2	afu
1	10		KEEP ME IN MIND (12) (DI F C for, TIR Marrier 7 10 2	
			MANASTE (10) (0) (1) 1 (2) (2) (2) (2) (3) (2) (3) (3) (4) (4) (5) (5) (5) (6) (7) (6) (6) (7) (7) (7) (7) (7) (7) (7) (7) (7) (7	
i	Ľ	<b>#6-323</b>	MORSTOCK (7) (D) (EF) "T" Factor P Forces 5 10 7	i :5:
1	13	222-331	NORDANSK (23) (D) (SF) の 小京 リリacoxxx 7 10 0 S Feeta	151
1			PRODEROKER STAR (62) (D) Fixe Sin-sulfand Grave 6 (0.0	
1			RES PSA 1000MCR (471) (D) F : FET 1 Grav B Platte 9 10 0 D Galla	
ì	i —		_ 15 declared =	_

Number 1885: Pas se gran Astronom de Clar Paramer Son 95: 12to, Pas (sas Labour for 65: BETTING: 4-1 Chery's Led, 6-1 Sohrab, Taos, Romancer, Monstock, 10-1 others 1995: Stat Freez 5 10 5 W Parents 2 1 Net rotton Sinn

### sport

### Willems treads path of football romance

Rund Gullit by hem raning the "money-grabhing foreigners" who had "danced and pranced on British soccer", he raised wry smiles at Derby County as well as the bizarre image of a bunch of mincing mercenaries.

Jim Smith, manager of the First Division leaders, has always felt that more dancing and prancing would not go amiss amid the domestic hurly burly. "We need fewer labourers," he says, meaning no disrespect to Jones's previous profession. "and more artistes.

Putting Derby's money where his mouth is. Smith has bought Igor Stimac. Croatia's answer to Franz Beckenbauer. plus two Dutchmen, Robin Van der Laan and Ron Willems, since arriving last summer. Van der Laan, the captain, speaks with a Potteries accent and is easily mistaken for a British midfielder after five years here.

Willems, while the first to admit he is no Johan Cruyff is a more strength different story. As one who once pushed Marco van Basten in depth than for a place in the Netherlands team, and was eventually succeeded by Dennis Bergkamp at Ajax, he brings distinctively Continental qualities to life below the Premiership. Whisper it to Vinnie, but that

world is becoming ever more cosmopolitan. For example, Derby's visitors today. Reading, have a Bulgarian goalkeeper. Bobby Mihailov, and a Polish defender, Dariusz Wdowczyk. Next week the man shadowing Willems may be Canada's mostcapped player, Randy Samuel. He is now with Port Vale, against whom Russia's Sergei Yuran and Vasily Kulkov make their Millwall debuts this afternoon.

The Moscow Spartak duo appeared in all six Champions' League matches in the autumn. Willems could have done likewise, having helped Grasshopper of Zurich to the Swiss title last season, only to join Derby for £300,000. What possessed

When Vinnie Jones Sought to justify his scything charlenge on imports talks to **Phil Shaw** about how his imports talks to Phil Shaw about how his expectations have been met since joining Derby County from Grasshopper Zurich

> The answer, in part, lies in the very room we are in, the directors' suite in the bowels of the Baseball Ground. Here, where Derby players once barricaded themselves in to demand Brian Clough's reinstatement, Willems gestures in awe at the trophies, mementoes and pictures of bygone Rams. This moneygrabbing foreigner is, it transpires, a bit of a football

> Even the location of the sta-dium, among a labyrinth of red-brick terraced houses near

### 'Here the atmosphere's great and there's in Europe'

the city centre, influenced his choice. "Football is the people's game and it shouldn't be out of town in the country or the suburbs," he says, "though I know clubs sometimes have to move to make progress. Before games, you see the crowds going along the streets, which is exciting.

People have said I must be crazy to leave Zurich for this. But we'd just won the championship and hardly anyone in the city seemed to have noticed. I wanted a fresh challenge, somewhere where football really matters. Here the grounds are full, the atmosphere's great and there's more strength in depth than in Europe."

To support his argument, with Leeds in the two cups and a friendly. Derby lost each one, yet twice they were level en-

tering stoppage time. In the Netherlands, for all the achievements at international level, he perceives a "big difference" not only between the top division and the rest, but between three teams and the oth-

While the name of Ajax leaps out of his CV, Willems made his initial impact with a provincial club, Zwolle. He was associated with them from the age of six he is now 29 – and appeared in the First Division before his 16th l'rthday. From there he moved to Twente Enschede, where the former Derby and England winger Gordon Hill was a colleague, and was top scorer for the Dutch Olympic

When he landed his big move to Ajax, in 1988, he was a contender for the national team. But first van Basten saw off all rivals by having a brilliant European Championship; then in-juries meant Willems' club partnership with the Swede, Stefan Petersen, was stillborn. A useful teenager slipped into the void. "Bergkamp took my place, and to be fair he did it quite well," he recalls, chuckling at the understatement.

As a player bought rather than developed by Ajax, he felt he was not "part of the process". During his fifth year in Amsterdam, he decided he was too old to sit on the bench and began looking for a club. Nottingham Forest, then in their relegation season, invited him over.

"I played in the reserves, scored and thought I'd done well. But I was told Brian Clough didn't even watch the game and I never heard another thing about it. Now I've ended up 15 miles away. It's a small

Grasshopper, where Willems said no, Jordan remembered to Smith. "is that more often Spurs, we found they gave us ing amazed by the number of season."



Ram raider: Ron Willems, whose goal rate has soared since moving behind the front two, trains for Derby

fulfilled his early potential alongside Ciriaco Sforza and Alain Sutter. The hankering to try "a big football country" remained strong, however. After a glowing reference from Roy Hodgson, who was then Switzerland's manager and now coaches Internazionale of Mi-

lan, Smith snapped him up. Willems' strength and heading ability – he is a six-footer – led Derby to use him as an outand-out attacker until a chance conversation at a reserve match, Joe Jordan asked

Willems was "different class" for Ajax in the floating role favoured by the likes of Beardsley, Sheringham. Barmby and of course Bergkamp.

Anyone operating there must be part-midfielder - with good passing skills - and part-striker - able to make runs into scoring positions. In November. when Smith was at last able to play Willems, Marco Gabbiadini and Dean Sturridge together, he decided the former's touch and intelligence made him ideally suited to playing off the front

than not, no one picks him up. Huddersfield went man-forman on Ronnie, but he still got the winner. I used this system successfully at Portsmouth with Alan McLoughlin, and probably only two teams a season

man-marked him. The revised formation, incorporating Stimac as sweeper, swept Derby from 17th to top in seven weeks. Willems has scored eight times in nine games, and is revelling in the

freedom the position allows. "There's not much space to play more room. If we do go up, I think our style would suit the Premiership.

Willems' observations on the game in his adopted country are instructive in this, the year of the don't get many games like last European Championship. If training at Derby is "not so dif-ferent" to Ajax's, there is less week, when we were two up on time to practise because of the congested fixture lists. He also finds the length of the sessions here, up to two and a half

hours, "a bit surprising". Technically, players in England are better than Willems was led to believe. He sees a though Mr Jones and the Pre-greater disparity in tactics, be-miership can wait until next A compatriot, Leo Been- whether he was playing be-hakker, signed him for hind the front two. When Smith "The attraction." according and in another friendly with greater disparity in tactics, be-

five wins and a draw. They

travel to Sheffield Wednesday

with Newcastle coming into

sight and with Neil Ruddock

and Phil Babb fit again. They

are likely to replace the sus-

pended Mark Wright and Steve

Eight days ago, there were

grounds for believing Wednes-

day were viable FA Cup win-

ners, but they subsided in a

desperate performance at

Charlton. John Scales, the Liv-

managers deploying four defenders against two strikers. 'We're more advanced in the Netherlands, but that can make boring football where everyone cancels each other out. You

Leeds and lost 4-2" As for the fabled ferocity of League football, Willems has mixed feelings. "The tempo is very fast, relentless, but I've got no problems with the tackles as long as they're on the ball." Which is where we came in, al-

### **TEAM NEWS**

**Bolton v Wimbledon** 

Botton seek their first Premership win in 12 attempts without central defenders Fairclough and Taggart, who both start two game bans. But Bergsson is back from suspension. Lee, fit again after hernia problems, is in the squad. Wilmbledon still without the suspended Jones, look set to keep the side which drew at Watford in the FA Cup.

**Everton v Chelsea** 

Everton's Ferguson is still struggling with a hamstring injury but Amokachi is back from Nigera following his country's web-drawal from the African Nations' Cup. Southall is struggling with a stomach infection and Watson is suspended but fellow defender Short has passed a fit-ness test on his back. Chelsea's goalriesa test on his back, criesea's goal-keeper Kriann picked up a gioun strain on Sunday and Hitchcock, should take over. Gullit returns after missing the FA Cup game with a back problem and Petrescu, injured in that game, is fit. Leeds v West Ham

With top scorer Yeboah and Masin-ga on African Nations' Cup duty and Deane suspended, Chapman, back at Eland Road on loan, is set to make his first Leeds appearance since May 1993 against another of his former clubs. Chapman could come face-to-face with Whyte, one of his team-mates in Leeds' 1992 title-winning team, who has joined West Ham of foan and is set to play at centre-back with Potts moving to right-back. Man Utd v Aston Villa

Manchester United welcome back Schmeichel, who missed the FA Cup game with Sunderland, and Scholes, who has recovered from flu and is set to replace suspended Beckham. Vil-la will give a start to Taylor but are without leading scorer Yorke, who is on duty with Trinidad and Tobago.

Middlesbrough v Arsenal Middlesbrough have four defenders missing, with Cox suspended and Fleming, Monts and Whyte Injured. Player-menager Robson is struggling with a call injury, but Florroft is fit again

after three matches out. Arsenal could hand a first appearance of the season to McGowan. With Winterburn banned and Bould injured, the 19-year old challenges Morrow for a place.

Nottm Forest v Southampton Frank Clark enjoys the luxury of a fullyfit squad so Fettis, a £450,000 sign-ing from Hull, is unlikely to figure. Southampton are considering Benali replacing Charlton at Jeft-back while Watson may miss out in favour of Mardisen

QPR v Blackburn

lateley, out of three matches with a broken nose, is back in contention as broken nosa, is back in contamilion as QPR seek to ending a run of three suc-cessive Premiership defeats. Black-burn have Gudmundsson, Fenton and Warhurst avallable after injury.

Sheffield Wed v Liverpool Wednesdy's Nicol is set to face his former club and goalkeeper Woods and left-back Briscoe are also back in the squad to challenge Pressman. Sinton and Stefanovic. Liverpool's Ruddock plays his first game in saveets while Babb is recalled. The pair replace Wingfit and Harkness, who begin two-match bans. Rush again has to settle for a substitute's role.

Tottenham v Man City Tottenham bring in Dozzeli, while Wilson is set to face his former club ar-ter missing three matches with ankle and groin injunes. Kerslake and Turner are also included in the squad. City will play the mexperienced ingam at left-back because lan Brightwell is sus-pended. Mangetson is named as the substitute goalkeper, with Coun, set for a move to Sunderland, left out.

Coventry v Newcastle Coventry have Ndlovu, out for four matches, and Borrows, who has missed 11, back in contention. Newresided LL, dack in comercion. New-castle must do without injured Eng-land duo Howey (hamstring) and Lee (Acrilles), while Albert is suffering from fill. Goalkeeper Histop is available after six games out Injured.

### Newcastle face another grey day

panache seems to have problems getting out of the North-east at the moment. Place them on Tyneside and there is no more invigorating sight in English football, distance them from where the supportive pulse beats strongest and the black and white seems to pale.

They have not won outside St James' Park since 29 November and if that Coca-Cola Cup win over Liverpool is subtracted, the sum is even worse. Invincible at home, Newcastle are anything but on their travels and you have to go back to their 3-2 win at Queen's Park Rangers on 14 October since they prevailed

away in the League. That, more than anything, is sustaining a dwindling chasing pack who would otherwise have grounds for despair, given the seven-point lead Newcastle have at the top of the Premiership and that Kevin Keegan has no intention of going overboard to become the England manager.

Nevertheless, Keegan is more aware than anyone that Newcastle's position is not impregnable. "You can't put plaudits in the trophy cabinet. was his snorted reply when it was pointed out his team are winning the applause of the neutral. "We need to improve."

Tomorrow's visit to Coventry will gauge whether the midweek defeat at Arsenal has had a deal with the Turkish club iswill gauge whether the midweek

The Newcastle United of draining effect on confidence. "We have got to get back to basics," Keegan continued, "We know it will be a tough game and if we play like we did on Wednesday we will make it tougher. They could turn us

Manchester United are the team with the clearest view of the leaders, although they have looked more dead than red in the away matches too, recently. At least Alex Ferguson, the United manager, can select from a stronger hand this time for today's home game against Aston Villa, with Peter Schmeichel and Paul Scholes both fit. There is also the considerable bonus that Andy Cole seems to

**Guy Hodgson** looks forward to the weekend's crucial Premiership games

be operating on somewhere near the same wavelength as his team-mates. He has scored four times in his last five matches, after a spell when he did not look as though he could strike a match and had the happy omen of knowing he got his first goal for United against today's opponents 12 months ago. "I have broad shoulders,"

Cole said, and they have be- the moment than Liverpool, come even broader since mov-

ing to Old Trafford. "I have their last six matches, accruing grown up a lot. I knew it was going to be difficult, but I have always believed I can score goals." Cole's main barriers will be

two former United players, Paul McGrath and Mark Bosnich, neither of whom will feel inclined to usher the striker towards greater maturity. "I had a fantastic spell at Old Trafford," Bosnich, the Villa goalkeeper, said, "and I will always be grateful to the coaching staff, who helped bring me along. It would be great to get a result. We have got to be positive if we want to

get into Europe." No team are more positive at

Jardel has been looking over

Ibrox this week even though red tape is delaying his £3m move

erpool central defender, be-lieves that Wednesday's reaction to that defeat will be Liverpool's greatest threat.

"They will want to bounce back from a bad, bad result," he said, "and they'll be anxious to make amends, particularly in front of their own supporters.

It will be a difficult game." As it will be at Burnden Park, where Bolton's chances of survival will look even more hopeless if they cannot defeat fellow-strugglers Wimbledon. Their new coach, Ian Porterfield - a brave man - has been studying videos of recent performances and has lambasted the

lack of concentration, particu-"We needed a kick up the backside." Alan Stubbs, the Bolton captain, said. "There have been some real video nasties." His supporters would cer-

### United guilty of poaching

Manchester United were yesterday found guilty of making an illegal approach to the teenager Matthew Wicks - but escaped serious punishment from the Football Association.

, Botha's Dosi

atialia thic

Arme picked

The FA held an inquiry following allegations by Arsenal over Wicks, son of the former Chelsea centre-back Steve, but United escaped with being ordered to pay the costs of two hearings after they were found guilty of breaching FA Premier League rule F20.7.

The rule states that "no club

shall directly or indirectly ap-proach any boy who is registered as an associated schoolboy with another club with a view to inducing the boy to register with such first mentioned club ..."

Wicks was registered with Arsenal, who complained to the FA when the central defender

later signed for the Old Trafford Wicks, meanwhile, is said to be unhappy with life in the north and is keen to return to a Lon-

don-based club.
Sunderland have offered Manchester City £500,000 for their unsettled goalkeeper Tony Coton, who has been unable to dislodge the German international Eike Immel from City's

starting line-up.

Bolton yesterday imported the 29-year-old Milan defender Enzo Gambaro on a month's loan. The 29-year-old former Sampdoria and Parma player is

currently out of contract. West Bromwich Albion have taken the Everton full-back Paul Holmes on loan in a bid to halt their run of 11 successive defeats in the Endsleigh First Division. The 27-year-old former Birmingham player will make his debut against Wolves

at The Hawthorus today. Kerry Dixon's travels round leading southern clubs during a 16-year career took in a seventh, stop yesterday when the strike er joined Watford from Millwall for a nominal fee.

Italy's players' union has warned that if any Italian club relaxed restrictions on the number of foreign players fielded in a match, it would seek their suspension from the league championship.

### Smith's master plan put on hold

Scottish football

The Brazilian striker Jardel and the Dutch forward Peter Van Vossen are the men Walter Rangers' domestic dominance and launch a fresh assault on the Champions' League next season. He thinks that if he can com-

plete deals to bring the pair to Glasgow, his Rangers revolution will be almost complete. That may not be easy.

tanbulspor for Van Vossen. which would see Oleg Salenko moving in the opposite direction. The Russian international was last night en route to Turkey for a medical and has Smith wants to maintain still to agree terms with his prospective new club.

> with Van Vossen, but they have to hurry to complete the deal before Turkey's transfer deadline on Monday.

Van Vossen, a member of Ajax's European Cup-winning squad last season, is expected back at fbrox after the weekend.

from Gremio of Brazil. He needs a work permit or a Portuguese passport to come through. Salenko's departure will free one of the 10 non-EC places available in Scottish football, but

Rangers have settled matters Rangers may not automatically be granted the permit for Jardel. A Scottish League spokesman confirmed last night that if Salenko leaves, Rangers would have to apply for permission from the management committee for another work permit.

final at Wembley while Waddle was still in the team, and there always seemed to be a chance if only someone would beat Arsenal for us. But those upstarts at Charlton played us off the pitch, even with 10 men for much of the second half. The only consolation is that now we don't have to support the Blades in their replay against Arsenal. We can concentrate on the League and

### Trevor Francis lost Wednesday the championship when he asked a proud Frenchman to stay for a second week's trial rather than signing him on A few weeks ago Marc Degryse father's despair at the better team losproud Frenchman to stay for a sec-FAN'S EYE VIEW perb performances of Degryse and Chris Waddle in the recent demoli-

No 132

Sheffield Wednesday

Colin Cooke

asked Wednesday supporters to give him time to settle into the side before expecting him to produce top form. He should be assured that patience is a prime virtue in any Owls fan: last championship success, 1929-30; too good for the Second Division in the 50s but not good enough for the First - hence the sobriquet "yoyo club"; barely escaping relegation to the lowest division in 1975-6; four appearances at Wembley in 1993 with

no cup to show for it. And then there's the 1966 FA Cup final. My daughter was snugly tucked away when disturbed by her mother's newly acquired enthusiasm for football at the World Cup final, and her 1977. Never mind what he has done

ing in the domestic final after leading Everton by two goals. Even that might have been bearable had not a Cornishman scored the vital fluky goals for the other side. "When have Cornishmen played football" I asked my wife, a native of St Ives? The word football translates to rugby in that part of the world. Oh yes, Marc, we know

all about patience at Hillsborough. The dark days of 1975-6 saw defeat by Darlington in the League Cup. and Charlton Athletic in the FA Cup, rescued by victory against Southend in the last game of the season to avoid descent into the Fourth Division. Then Jack Charlton arrived in for Ireland, Big Jack is a hero to Owls supporters for turning the tide of foot-ball failure in Sheffield 6. Combining local heroes such as Sterland and Shirtdiff with imported stars like Bannister, Megson and Shelton produced a team which was professional in attitude, never giving less than their best. With the captain, Mike Lyons,

Division before Jack decided to "go fishin" on a more regular basis. Howard Wilkinson fulfilled the

promises made by Jack in taking us into the old First Division, and then Ron Atkinson built a fine team, albeit achieving relegation in the process, just to keep our feet on the ground, before deserting to Aston Villa. Trevor Francis lost Wednesday driving the younger players around him, we almost reached the old First the championship when he asked a

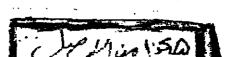
. 9 200 0 0 0

ond week's trial rather than signing him on a well-established reputation. Look what has happened to Cantona's clubs since. Players and managers view a club

at a country, and often with similar, dismal results. Lifelong supporters learn to accept the slings and arrows of unfeeling fate, hoping yet scarcebelieving that success will come. David Pleat is building a new team which might bring the champioaship to Hillsborough in a few years' time, but whether that is in the First Division or the Premier League is in doubt at the moment. The su-

tion of Leeds were a delight to behold but were inevitably followed by more insipid results, confirming the reputation for inconsistency. It would have been nice to win a cup

on the short timescale of their tenure, much as a government looks aim for a second appearance in the Intertoto cup. Europe here we come.



### sport

### **England to** join the space race

Derek Pringle reports from Johannesburg on the weekend's one-day internationals that are attracting Gauteng's cricket public

For once, the people of Gauteng, as the Transvaal is now known, will have to make some unusually tough decisions about how to spend their weekend- or at least those who can afford it. Normally this would involve a choice between having a braai (barbecue) and a few beers by the pool, or should the weather turn particularly fine, just having the beers.

This weekend, however, they will be dazzled with choice. For starters, there are two back to back one-day internationals. at Johannesburg today and Verwoerdburg tomorrow, but if that appears a little tame, there is the opening football match in the African Nations' Cup as well, which pits the hosts against Cameroon. Add Pavarotti to the list, and you can see why those used to making easy choices are calling it the greatest show south of the equator.

By Sunday evening, an esti-mated 17m rand will have been spent on tickets alone, and if those selling food stand to be disappointed (South Africans take mobile barbies with them everywhere), the ticket touts should have a field day. Aiready both cricket matches are selfouts, and this in spite of taking place entirely within the hours of daylight.

Having already given two near-midnight press conferences, Michael Atherton may see it as a cue to have a game or two off. If he does, Alec Stewart will captain the side, though he may not open, particularly if England decide to stick with a "hitter" up the order, a role Phil DeFreitas performed with some success in the last match.

If they do - and Ray Illingworth thinks it will depend entirely upon the circumstances of the game - then Robin Smith could well be the other opener. Certainly Smith needs to bat in the top three if he is to maximise what be has to offer, ing the white cricket ball like John Daly does a white golf ball off the tee, the No 3 spot curreraty looks occupied.

The only problem England have - and it will surface when they come to select the 14 who go to the World Cup - is that Stewart's best position is also as an opener. Both he and Smith, who average roughly 30 and 40 respectively, like to hit the ball

François Botha, the South

African, has tested positive for

a banned anabolic steroid after he won the International Box-

ing Federation heavyweight

finding traces, we found large

quantities." Alois Teuber, pres-

ident of the German profes-

sional boxing federation, said in

Bonn yesterday. The substance was Nandrolone. Its effect de-

pends on whether it is taken

over the long or short term. If

day score of 130 yesterday

helped Australia to an 83-run

best-of-three World Series final.

rassed by one of their bowlers be-

Sri Lanka, already embar-

"It wasn't just a question of

championship last month.

**Botha's positive drug test** 

Stuttgart.

with the middle of the bat. This is fine in most forms of cricket, but in one-day games it only works if you keep finding gaps in the field, or are fortunate to have the chance to play yourself in as an opener.

Neither is therefore particularly well-suited to batting in the middle order, where the going becomes more hectic, and working the ball into gaps - as Graham Thorpe has brilliantly done in the last two games - is far more important than playing big, booming shots. Which, if not finding those fielders positioned in the ring, are invariably cut off by those sweeping the boundary.

Compared to Australia, England are beginners when it comes to playing the ball into space and pinching quick singles. Ironically, it was just such an attempt that did for Mark Ramprakash, who has barely faced an over's worth of batting in the middle since the beginning of December.

His run-out two nights ago. for his first run in four innings, must have pushed him close to breaking point. Although few could blame him, he has become an increasingly remote and frustrated figure on this tour.

Yet if anything positive can be gleaned from his winter of discontent, it is that he has been to places in the mind and soul where few, given the choice, would ever dare to venture. Knowing what that feels like can only make him a stronger person and he will get another chance before this tour is over, as will Richard Illingworth, now bappily recovered from a side

The openers Desmond Haynes and Gordon Greenidge subdued England with a stand of 137 as the West Indies retained the World Masters Series title with an eight-wicket win in Sharjah vesterday. West Indies, chasing England's 40-over total with 17 balls to spare in a final reduced from 45 overs because of morning rain.

Pakistan yesterday recalled their veteran batsman, Javed Miandad, after more than two years' absence to the 14-man squad, led by Wasim Akram, for the forthcoming World Cup. Miandad has played 228 one-day matches for his country since making his debut 20 years ago.

can enhance strength and per-

formance." Botha beat the Ger-

man. Axel Schulz, for the vacant title with a controversial points

decision last December in

would not be the case.

Sanath Jayasuriya and Ro-mesh Kaluwitharana put on 56

But the loss of four wickets for

11 left their challenge in tatters

and they finished on 183 for 9.

ing stand of 189 off 216 balls

with his captain, Mark Taylor,

who made 85. It beat the pre-

vious Australian first-wicket

record stand of 182 compiled by

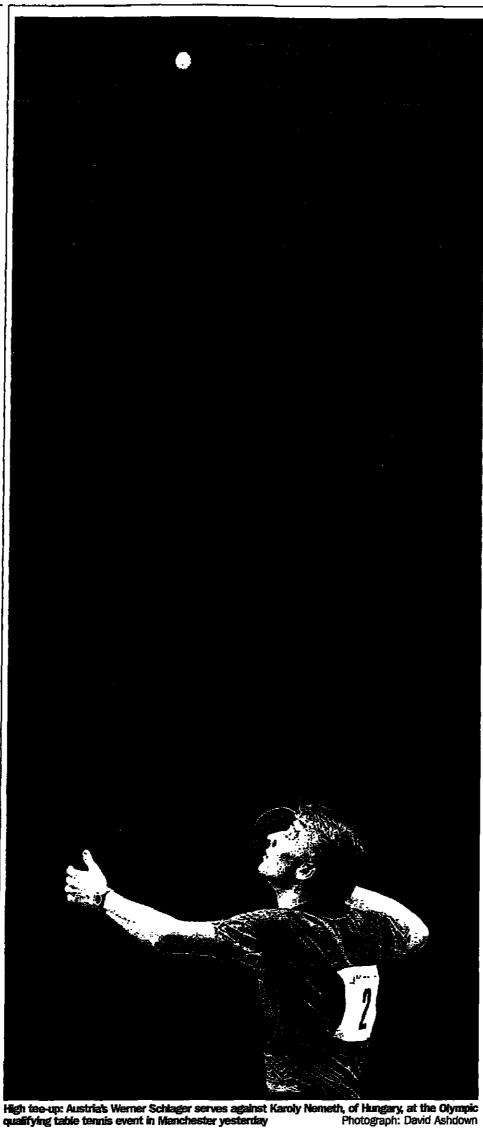
Rick McCosker and Alan Turu-

er during the 1975 World Cup.

remaining two matches to qual-

Sri Lanka must now win their

Waugh dominated an open-



NBA: Atlanta 87 Toronto 79; Detrot 95 Chartotte 93; Indiana 96 Milleauliee 88; Phoenix 111 Golden State 108; LA Clippers 109 Minnesota 89.

Boxing
Scott Welch has been forced to withdraw from the first defence of his World Boxing Organisation Inter-Commental title be-

based heavyweight was due to fight in a 12-round title bout at Brighton's Metro-pole Hotel on 26 January.

### **Curious challenge** to establishment

The Rugby Football Union has for so long been equated with the establishment that to find it under assault from its own establishment - the mass of English clubs who are being led by the nose by the recalcitrant counties - for being too radical is as bizarre as in another sense it is grotesque.

But there it is. John Jeavons-Fellows, the RFU executive committee's unanimous nomination to be its chairman and also the choice of the vast majority of the RFU full committee, is resigned to losing the vote to Cliff Brittle, his challenger from the Isle of Man but representing Staffordshire, in tomorrow's special general meeting in Birmingham.

Such things are normally as dry as dust even to RFU mem-

camp at Bisham Abbey has re-

duced this afternoon's English

First Division to a solitary fix-

ture, although Orrell v Saracens

does very adequately in repre-

senting the new professionalism on the eve of the Rugby Foot-

ball Union's fraught special

In fact, there was not supposed

to be any league rugby today, this

being a pre-international week-end. The match at Edge Hall

Road, where it seems Orrell will

not be playing for much longer, is the only one postponed during

the new year freeze to be unaf-

fected by Bisham, although both

teams are affected by injuries.

tain, has a broken finger and is

replaced by the Western Samoan

Lua Tuigamala, the vounger

brother of the Wigan rugby

league player, Va'aiga. With Gloucester having beat-

en West Hartlepool last Satur-

day while Saracens were losing

to Wasps, the London side's vis-

it to Lancashire has taken on a

desperate importance since they

are now within four points of

both Gloucester and the rele-

gation zone, have an inferior

to Kingsholm on the League's

coming come what may, the Aus-

tralian having agreed a three-year

deal which is not dependent on

Sarries' retaining their status. Mind you, it would help, not least

in ensuring Nigel Wray remains

happy about bankrolling the club

Orrell's path to professional-

to the tune of £2.5m.

Michael Lynagh, however, is

final Saturday.

Paul Johnson, the Orrell cap-

meeting, writes Steve Bale.

The Rugby Football Union votes for its chairman tomorrow. Steve Bale reports

represented at annual meetings and will not be in Birmingham no matter how special the occasion. But Brittle, supported by the counties, has piled up a stack of proxies and looks set to beat the RFU's own nominee hands down, or perhaps that should be hands up, on a ticket which effectively demands a deceleration in the pace of change.

That this matters is not necessarily to do with the personalities involved, since they are curiously similar: self-made businessmen who made a packet out of selling their companies and have since devoted themselves to rugby. Rather, it is beber clubs, most of whom are not cause of the utter misconception

they have always lived with rug-

by league - specifically Wigan -

on their doorstep, they are not

to be blamed for seeking a link-

up with their neighbours which

will see them playing at Central

Park by the end of the season,

More spectacularly, there is every chance of Wigan's high-

powered professionals playing

professionally for Orrell in their

off-season, since any block would presumably be a re-

straint of trade. Newcastle were

taken over by a football club, so

why not a rugby league club?

Having existed on a shoestring

for years, Orrell deserve all

the help they can get; they nev-

er reckoned they had any from

It is a still more critical day

in the Second Division, where

the exiles' meeting at Sunbury

will go far to determine whether

down to earth today at Treorchy.

Edward Jones last night re-

signed as the Welsh union sec-

retary because of his reluctance

to work within the new profes-

sional dispensation agreed by

the International Boiard and

changes introduced by the

the First Division.

although not today, alas.

Saracens fly lone

**First Division flag** 

England's four-day training ism is no less ambitious, and as

on which Brittle's apparently successful campaign has rested and the calamitous consequences in prospect of a Brittle

The nub of the argument is that in the rush to profession-alism, the RFU has ignored the small clubs and their interests. This would be true if there were any urgent interests involved; instead, even with the RFU choosing to let the "open" game apply to anyone who makes that choice, the coming of professionalism has next to no relevance for the broad swathe who will simply carry on as if nothing had happened.

The real urgency was for the RFU to address the implementation of professionalism - which it did in the well-received commission report that will go before tomorrow's meeting - and sort out the top level of the game

where the impact would be felt. Brittle presents himself as a realist intent on uniting all levels of the game, and one of the blizzard of faxes his PR campaign has circulated also presents him as the "common man".

This is an interesting description of a man living in tax exile - although one can but gasp in admiration at the way he has marshalled his forces at county level, where they have bitterly and quite rightly come to see themselves as marginalised by the advance of the big clubs and the overwhelming primacy accorded to the national team.

They ought to know, however, that they are playing with fire. Not withstanding unlikely conciliatory noises being made by Peter Wheeler of Leicester. it is by no means fanciful that if the tail really does wag the dog as threatened, then the leading clubs will secede from the union. Is that what Brittle, the counties or the hundreds of clubs voting by proxy want?

London Irish or London Scot-No, of course not, but this is the path that is being followed untish, currently third and second, accompany Northampton into erringly and has been allowed to proceed unchallenged because the RFU has fell unable to Both are incandescent at reports that the RFU would deny counter-campaign on behalf of the official candidate. Even Jeavthem a place in Europe if they ultimately finished in a qualifyons-Fellows has been muted in is detend last Sunday's Cardiff-Toulouse dismayed that Twickenham has Heineken Cup final. The narnot openly come to his aid. rowly beaten finalists come

But if and when Brittle wins. he will have to chair the same executive who self-evidently have no confidence in him. Hereby may lie the RFU's salvation; as Brittle will be answerable to the executive, we can suppose he will fulfil their will. And then they can go to the AGM in July and try all over again.

### SPORTING DIGEST Basketball

LPGA Tournement of Champions (Ortando, Florida) First recard (US unless stated) lessing positions: 67 L Neumann (Swe): 68 M Naue; 68 B King. M McGeorge; 77 P Shecher: B Thomas; 73 L Negeris K Webs; 72 L Cewes (SB): C Johnson: A Noblas (SB): D Eggsing; T Green; 73 S Steinbauer; V Stanner; J Judback; P Bradley; K Robbins; 74 D Coe-Jones (Can); M McGern; 8 Mucha; Y Kerdyk; C Hilt; J Geddes. ice hockey

The Scot was named alongside Sweden's Kenneth Eriksson and Piero Li-atti, of Italy, when the team ended weeks of speculation by announcing

A child was fulled after running in front of a French competitor in the Dakar Ral-ly yesterday. The accident, involving a motorcycle rider, Marcel Pilet, occurred

in the village of Tarembali, near the end of the 517km 13th stage from Keys in Mall to Labe in central Guinea. This lat-

est fatality doubled the death toll in this year's desert marathon and took the to-tal number of deaths in the 18-year his-

Snooker
THALAND OPEN (Blackpool) Final qualifying round: 5 James (Engl bt 1 Meo (Engl 5-4; A Robdoux (Carl bt D Fribow (Engl 5-4; B Porting (Engl bt D Taylor (N bit 5-2; D Oct (Scot) bt D O'Name (N2) 5-4; B Proches (Engl bt J Fergason (Engl 5-5; B Portins (Engl bt J Fergason (Engl 5-1) Thomates (Engl bt N Terry (Engl 5-2; J Woodman (Engl bt M Clark (Engl 5-3; A Hamilton (Engl bt T) Tores (Engl 5-2; P Hurser (Engl bt D Reynolds (Engl 5-2; B Snaddon (Scot) bt A Hods (Engl 5-3; J Swad (N bit) bt A Daves (Wa)) 5-2; T Murphy (N bit) bt M Proce (Engl 5-2.

SUFFIO
REW YEAR SPAND TOURNAMENT (Tokyo)
Subth day of 15; Marrourm (von 4, lost 2) Highnourn (3-3); Tomorothana (3-3) Reissumata (3-3); Lyokirotzan (4-2) Aggyama (3-3); Marrouhana
(4-2) Oğmustak (3-3); Sasish (3-3); Harmanoshma (2-3); Kornshio (3-3); Sasish (3-3); Harmanoshma (2-3); Kornshio (3-3); Teoris (3-3); Reisbergu
(1-5); Alamoshama (3-3); Asanosto (3-3); Rotionovala (2-4); Musigicato (2-4); Halatonio (5-1)
Kotonostoka (1-5); Musigicato (2-4); Halatonio (5-1)
Kotonostoka (1-5); Musigicato (3-3); Musishmeni
(3-4); Kotonoshio (3-3); Kao (3-3); Musishmeni
(3-1); Kotonoshio (3-3); Kao (3-3); Musishmeni
(5-1); Micholo (4-2); Takanorami (5-1); Micholo
(5-1); Micholo (4-2); Takanorami (5-1); Micholo
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(5-1) Kenko (4-2): Takanonami (5-1) Minsk fun (1-5); Takanohana (6-0) Asahuutaka (4-2

EUROPEAN OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOUR-NAMENT (Monchester) Women's first stage, Group 12: G Yearn (Nettr) at A Hott (GB) 23-21 13: 21 26: 24 21: 10 21: 16: Group 10: L lones (GB) at F kontan (Ide) 17: 21: 21: 19: 21-12 21: 14: Group 8: P Freih (Slov) in A Broe (GB) 21: 15: 17: 21: 21: 5: 21: 19.

Table tennis

tory of the event to 33.

Motor racing

GTHENGH.

SHEED (Birst day of four)
(Adelaide): South Australia 348 for 7 (P
Nobes 12:1.) Siddons 110; V New South
Nales, (Nobert) Victoria 275 in Harvey 85, D
Jones 53; I Marquet 4-63; Tasmania 17-1.
WORLD SERUES ORE-DAY INTERNATIONAL
(Perth, Australia 266 for 6 (M Waugh
130, M Taylor 85); Sn Landa 183 for 9 in
Tillelerative 58 no). Australia won by 83 David Countains declared nimsen nap-py after testing his McLaren car at Es-tural in Portugal yesterday. Coulthard was testing new components on last year's chassis with Alain Prost, who has been contracted as technical advisor to the McLaren team for this season. The world champion, Colin McRae, was yesterday confirmed as part of the three-man 555 Subaru team for 1996.

Rallying

### P W L NR Pts ...7 5 2 0 10 ....7 3 4 0 6 ...6 2 4 0 4

### Football

Football

Tulio and Donizete, the Brazilian forwards, have turned down multi-million dollar offers from unspecified Japanese clubs and renewed their contracts with Botafogo, Both players led Botafogo to its first national title since the Brazilian First Division national championship officially began in 1971.

CONCACAF BOLD CUP (Sam Diego) Group A: Messoo 5 (Garea 2, Pelaez 2, Garca) St Vincent and the Grenafares 0.

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Ason Insurrance Combination First Division: Queen's Park Ranges 2 Lutan 1, Second Division: Newport AFC 1 Swansea City 2.

PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Leeds Und 1 Sheffield Und 0; twenpold 1 Spake City 3.

FA YOUTH CUP Taind round: Woking 0 West

Mark Mouland, of Wales, shot a one-over-

18

The three-times Ryder Cup FA YOUTH CUP Tains round: Woking O West FAI HARP LAGER CUP First round: Dundalk

> par 71 in the second round of the Asian PGA Championship in Hong Kong yes-terday for an aggregate of 141 – six strokes behind leader Yen Chang-ting of Telwan. TODAY'S NUMBER

Clare Wood, the British No 1 from Brighton, beat Christine Newman, of the United States, 7-6, 3-6, 6-3, in the first round of the women's qualifying competition for the Australian Open, which starts in Melbourne on Monday. Wood, who must win three matches to reach the main draw, will now play the Hungarian, Virag Csurgo, in the second qualifying round today and, on present world rankings, a close match looks likely. TASMANIAN HITERNATIONAL WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Nobert) Singles, quarter-finels: J Halard-Decuge (Fr) bt 5 Fanna (t) 6-76-16-4; Sin-Ting Wang (lie) bt J Wesner (August 6-36-3. M Endo Ugan) bt N Sugame (Lapan) 6-17-5; F Labat (Arg bt V Rusno-Pascuel (Sp) 6-3 6-3.

ROOM (F) 7-6 4-6 7-8.

DAVIS CUP ELIRO-AFRICAN ZONE (Nairobi)
Broup Threes: Ireland bt Zambia 3-0. (Irish
nance first): S Barron bt N Sinkala 6-3 6-4. D
Casely it S Breigh 6-1 6-0. Berron and Casely
bt M Kombe and I, Ndelwei 6-1 6-1.

ALISTRALIAN OPEN DRAW (Filinders Park,
Melbourne, 15-28 January) First roundr
usen's singles: P SAMPRAS (US) v R Fromberg

Gus); M Joyce (US) v K Goossens (Bet); qualdier v M Philippousss, (Aust; qualifier v G Schaller
(Aus); M Sarner (Ger) v A Belchragin; (Aus); S
Massucke (Japani v M Woodforde Aus); S
Massucke (Japani v M Woodforde Aus); E
Sanchez (Sp) v F Claver (Sp); F de Whif (Bet)
v P HAARFURS (Neth); G MANISEVIC (Croa) v
B Karbocher (Ger); K Carlsen (Den) v qualifier;
A Costa (Sp) v F Meligen (Br); R Furlan (t) v
S Draper (Aus); J Morgan (Aus) v D Wheaton
(US); K Alami (Mon' v H Gumy (Arg) L Rou, Fin
v A Vonnea Rhom) M Goother (Ger) v T ENOYMS!
(Swe); B BECNER (Ger) v G Russedski (GB); J
Eungh (Neth) v I Johnston (Swe); H Holm (Swe)
v B Black (Zm); N Lapentti (Ecul v M Lanson
(Swe); quelifier v J Apel (Swe); N Menques (Por)
v B Sarven (AZ); V B Ayrasou (Mor) v D Ari
nosa (Ger); J Semennik (Neth) v M RUSSET
(Swe); A BOETSCH (Fr) v G Forger (Fr); M Washnegon (US) v J Sanchez (Sp); M Rooc (Chie) v
P Rafter (Aus); M Hadded (Col) v A Chesnokov
(Rus); M Telbutt (Aus) v C-U Steeh (Ger); P
Tramach (Aus) v S Noszaly (Hun); A Corretja
(Sp) v J Hrostak (Skouak); F Santoro (Fr) v 1
MAPELNIKOV (Rus); M CHANG (US) v R No APELNIKOV (Rus); M CHANG (US) v R No Ren; J Hasek (Swi) v D Nomen (Be); O Delearer (Fr) w B Blood (Aus); G Roou, Grin v qualdier; J Noski (C Rep); V S Edosep (Swe); auslifier
v S Schallen (Neth); H Dreekmann (Be); O Delearer (Fr) w B Blood (Aus); G Roou, Grin v qualdier; J Noski (C Rep); V S Edosep (Swe); auslifier
v S Schallen (Neth); H Dreekmann (Ec); O Delearer (Fr) w Blood (Aus); G Roou, Grin v qualfler v A Gaudern (Neth); H Dreekmann (Ec); O Delearer (Fr) w Blood (Aus); G Roou, Grin v qualfler v A Gaudern (Neth); H Dreekmann (Ec); O Delearer (Fr) w Blood (Hur); A Wash
RCSK (Neth); A MEDVEDEV (Urr v C Mo; Sp);
qualifier v Y McCrone (US); qualfler v A Gaudern (Neth); H Orekmann (US); qualfler v A Gaudern (Neth); H Dreekmann (US); qualfler v A Gaudern (Neth); H Orekmann (US);
y V Spade (US); qualfler v A Gaudern (Neth); C Octos (Sp) v A Volkov

(Sh) v T-Indram (Laus); D Rootagno (US); v

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FCRU victory over Sri Lanka and guaranteed them a place in the

> ing called for throwing, had the hatsman Asanka Gurusinha reprimanded by the match referee Graham Dowling for bringing the game into disrepute when he and Steve Waugh exchanged words after Waugh delivered a wide. ify for the finals.

a victim of London's salary cap

restrictions this season and

made just seven appearances.

Moore picked up by Giants

Mark Waugh's career-best one- in pursuit of Australia's 266 for

Manchester Giants yesterday signed the England internation-Towers face Worthing Bears al Joel Moore from the Budat Birmingham's NEC tonight in weiser League leaders London the 7-Up League Trophy final. Towers as they stepped up their title bid, writes Duncan Hooper. London, attempting to win Moore, who made his league their first title, slipped in their league quest last week when the debut 14 years ago and has won 43 England caps, found himself

behind Towers with a game in hand, hope to have Moore, 31. registered in time for their match at Doncaster tomorrow.

Liselotte Neumann shot a five-under-par 67 in the opening round of the Tournament of Champions in Orlando, the first event of the LPGA season. The Swede has a one-shot lead over Bears beat them for the first time in five meetings. Bears veteran the American Martha Nause. Steve Nelson said: "We always The Britons, Laura Davies and Alison Nicholas, were five shots believe we can heat them and last Manchester, currently six points week we proved it to ourselves," | off the lead.

### **Nelson opens** campaign for Ryder place

"Now we must wait for the IBF to send their experts before Larry Nelson, the American veteran on a mission after being we can carry out the analysis on a second sample." Teuber said. overlooked for the 1997 Ryder Asked what would happen if the Cup captaincy, seized the firstsecond test proved negative, round lead at the Tucson Open in Arizona. He plundered the National course for eight birdies Tenber said he was certain that If the second sample is poson the way to a seven-under-par

itive, Botha will be stripped of 65 in ideal conditions. He led by one stroke from his his title and Schulz given anit is taken over the long term, other chance against a different it aids muscle development and opponent. fellow Americans, Dillard Pruitt and Tim Herron, both of whom also played at Tucson National. The best score at the more difficult Starr Pass course was Australia through to finals a 67 by Joel Edwards.

Nelson, 48, was widely expected to captain the 1997 United States Ryder Cup team, but was overlooked in favour of Tom Kite. After Kite was named captain late last year. Nelson, winner of three major titles - the US PGA twice and a US Open - set himself a goal to make the team as a player.

player plans to enter as many as 23 events this year to give himself a better chance of accumulating qualifying points. While Nelson made a sound

start. Phil Mickelson, the defending champion, had a respectable 69 at Starr Pass, which played on average two strokes harder than Tocson National. 

<del>andre</del> and the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the control of the contr

The number of months Ajax went undefeated before losing 2-1 to Maccabi Haifa, the Israeli Cup holders, in a friendly in Haifa on Thursday night. The Amsterdam side are still unbeaten in 52 Dutch league matches and 17 European Cup games.

David Coulthard declared hirnself hap-

6-3 6-3.

BELL SOUTH OPEN MEN'S TOURNAMENT

(Auclidad NZ) Singles, quarter-finals: B

Steven (NZ) to D Rivi (CZ Rap) 6-4 7-5; J Novasi (CZ Rap) to J Yzaga (Peru) 6-2 6-1; J Franz

(Ang) to H Gurny (Ang) 6-3 7-6; G Forget (Fr)
leads M Washington (US) 6-5 train suspended plays.

isods M Washington (US) 6-5 (rain suspended play).

PETERS INTERNATIONAL (Sydney, Aus)
Men's Singles, semi-finalist: G Ivanission:
(Cros) bt T Woodhodge (Aus) 6-3 7-6; T Munthn (US) bt G Rusedsia (GB) 7-5 7-8. Women's
Singles, quart-finalist: B Schuftz-McCarthy
(Neth) bt M J Fernandes (US) 7-6 8-3; k Date
(Japan) bt C Ruber (US) 6-0 6-1; L Daverport
(US) bt N Braddhe (Aus) 6-3 6-7 6-3.

COLOMAL CLASSIC (Kooyong, Aus) Men's
singles, semi-finality V Kafehnikov (Rus) bt A
Agassi 2-6 6-2 7-6. Consolation round, 5th
and 6th placess W Ferreira (SA) bt P Refrer
(Aus) 7-6 6-3. Endalition Mestrix 5 Edberg
(Swe) bt A Gauderal (It) 6-4 6-1.

NDONESIA OPEN (Jakanta) Men's singles,
quarter-flustic S Schalten (Neth) bt M Tilsborn
(Swe 5-7 6-2 6-4; Y El Ayrabou (Mor) bt E
Sanchez (SIS) 6-0 6-1; M Joyes (US) to G
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£40,000 to be won See Page 22



# Uefa ban stuns Spurs and Wimbledon

**Football** 

PHIL SHAW

Tottenham Hotspur and Wimbledon, staggered by yesterday's one-season ban from Europe for failing to enter into the spirit of last summer's In-tertoto Cup, will have the backing of the Football Association and the Premier League in er. and Peter Barnes, the Spurs their appeal to European football's governing body, Ucfa.

nunishment imposed by Uefa in response to the under-strength teams fielded by Spurs and Wimbledon - will be active for five years. If either qualifies for any European competition within that period, they will not be allowed to enter.

After a hastily convened meeting with FA officials, Sam Hammam, Wimbledon's ownsecretary, announced their intention to fight the ban. Both Hammam and Spurs' chair-

man, Alan Sugar, reacted with incredulity rather than anger to the Uefa's bolt from the blue, each suggesting it must be the result of a misunderstanding.

An FA spokesman pledged le-gal and moral backing for Spurs and Wimbledon, although he argued that Lancaster Gate could not be blamed. "We can't be held responsible for what Uefa has decided to do," he said. Rick Parry, the Premier League's chief executive, offered "full

seeded, they were also allowed to play at Brighton.

There must be a major mis-

and Premier League. They un-

derstood they had permission

from the FA to field sides com-

prising loan players and re-

serves in the games, which were

staged in June and July when

most of their first-team squad

were on holiday. With the pitch at White Hart Lane being re-

According to Sugar, Spurs bad only entered the Intertoto be cleared up very shortly. Sugar said last night. He said the FA's ar said last night. He said the FA's sanction was confirmed in writing and that Spurs received an assurance from Uefa by phone that "nothing would happen if we proceeded on that basis".

He added: "Therefore the wires have been crossed somewhere and I'm sure it will be resolved. I'm sure the FA and Premier League will back up exactly what I have said. All the other chairmen know this was the

case as it was agreed at a Premier League meeting at which Rick Parry and Graham Kelly [the FA chief executive) were present."
Wimbledon also played at Brighton with a team reinforced by "outsiders". Hamman

said: "I'm sure there's a mis-understanding. We went into the Intertoto not because of money but because of a threat that all English clubs would be banned from Europe if we didn't. We were proud to do that at the time.

that the "honourable and able people in Uefa" would listen sympathetically to their appeal. This isn t a case for Wimbledon to deal with. It is for the whole

of English football to be united." Uefa had already withheld the financial reward the two clubs were due for entering the Intertoto. Then last month it reduced from four to three the number of places for English clubs in next season's Uefa Cup because of the "poor atti-

Cricket

The man who almost made a

career out of bad light will be

disappearing into the shadows

in June, Harold "Dickie" Bird,

for years considered the best

umpire in the world, will stand

in his last international match

when he takes charge of the

second Test between England

The 62-year-old Yorkshire-

man, one of the few sports

officials to emerge beyond the

boundaries of his game as a per-

sonality, has brought a unique

blend of the exotic and the

excellent to each of the world-

record 65 Tests and 92 one-day

internationals he has officiated

His exaggerated gestures and

his look of constant harass-

ment at being in the middle of

high-pressure international

sport made for wonderfully

entertaining television, and even turned him into an object

of ridicule at times. But they dis-

guised an absolute grasp of the

game and a remarkable ability

to get hairline decisions correct.

is retiring from the international circuit, "I always said that I want

to go out at the top. I want to

go out gracefully and I want to be remembered," he said. "I

don't want to go on too long and

people to say that Dickie Bird's slipping and I think it's the time

Bird's standing in the game,

with players, spectators and

and India at Lord's.

in since 1973.

"We knew Uefa were unhappy," an FA spokesman said. "They felt the clubs hadn't entered into the spirit of the competition."

Spurs' captain, Gary Mab-butt was "devastated" by the ban. Wimbledon twice missed out on Europe because of the ban that followed the Heysel disaster. The third English entrants, Sheffield Wednesday, escaped with a Uefa reprimand, having been second in their section. Football, page 26

Hugh Bateson on

a retiring umpire

to whom strange

things happened

commentators, is guaranteed.

The editor of Wisden Cricketers'

"Dickie's retirement will be a

terrible loss for Test cricket in

the sense that he has been so

much more than an umpire. He

has contributed hugely to the

Allan Lamb and Ian Botham

played the most famous prank

on him (which Bird tells against

himself in his regular after-

dinner speeches) when Lamb

entrusted Bird with his mobile

telephone while he was batting

in a Test match. Bird dutifully

put it in his pocket, and was star-

iled when it started ringing in

the middle of the game. Botham

was on the line asking Lamb to

He also seemed to attract the

unusual in Test cricket. In last

And he was in charge at Head-

ingley in the 1987 match, between

England and the West Indies.

when water mysteriously began

emerging from underground.

forcing another lengthy post-

ponement, A drain was blocked.

swan-song with some trepidation.

England's space race, page 27

Lord's will be awaiting his

summer's Test between England

play a few shots.

dazzling a batsman.

In recent seasons he has be- at the West Indies at Old Trafford,

gun to prove fallible, however, - Bird had to halt the game because

and although he will continue of too much sunlight when the re-to stand in the county game, he flected glare off a glass door was

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Stories about Bird are legion.

humour of the game.

lmanac, Matthew Engel, said:

'Dickie' to

bow out at

Lord's Test

### Francis is latest to snub England job

**GUY HODGSON** 

The pool of talent the Football Association will draw from to appoint a successor to Terry Venables as England coach took on the overflowing abundance of a Yorkshire Water reservoir yesterday when two more candidates withdrew from consideration.

Gerry Francis, a former England captain and now manager of Tottenham Hotspur, said his immediate future lay in club

football and implored the FA to press Venables to change his mind. Chelsea's Glenn Hoddle, meanwhile, joined Kevin Keegan. Bryan Robson. Joe Royle and Ray Wilkins in saying he

was not interested in the job. Francis, who slipped from the bookies' favourite to second in the running, made his statement in response to what he described as "intense media speculation". It was also delivered before the surprise announcement that Spurs have been sus-

### Candidates fill the 'No' lobby

Tommy Docherty, a man with a ready quote for most situations, summed up life in charge of a football team. "Management these days is like nuclear war," he said. "No winners. just survivors.

The most primitive urge of all, the need to survive, is coming into play as the search to replace Terry Venables as England coach lurches towards a compromise. At one time only the best was good enough to lead the nation's football team, now it would seem we will have to make do with either the bravest or most foolhardy.

Gerry Francis, who has always come across as a sensible man, confirmed that opinion yesterday when he said the England job was not for him. He joined a herd of young managers like Kevin Keegan, Bryan Robson. Ray Wilkins, Joe Royle and Glenn Hoddle who had looked at the spirit-buckling pressures inflicted on Venables and his predecessor. Graham Taylor, and decided the chances of a happy life would be improved by remaining at their clubs.

Who can blame them? It takes a soul of granite consistency not to flinch when confronted with "Turnip" headlines and even those with the necessary iron would probably prefer not to have their private lives investigated with the toothcomb intensity that the tabloids apply. The England job has become the most difficult of them all.

So where does the the growing list of refuseniks leave the Football Association? Graham Kelly, the governing body's chief executive, says the preference is for an English former interna-

No. 2882. Saturday 13 January

Friday's solution

KET MINCEPLIE

**Guy Hodgson** considers the FA's options in finding

a national coach tional but the perfect man ap-pears to be an impossible dream.

If the denials are taken at face value the only Premiership managers who would meet the criteria are Brian Little, Colin Todd and Alan Ball and none has had sufficient success at club level to merit proper attention. The FA will have to compromise

or change someone's mind. Of the latter category, Robson would seem the most amenable, given that his "no" was the least emphatic. A man whose patriotism was as fierce as his tackles might leave the Riverside if he was persuaded his country was

in a desperate position.

If the FA did bend, Howard Wilkinson would appear a natural candidate. He never played for England but his esteem at Lancaster Gate is high and he has something on his c.v. that, among current English managers, only Howard Kendall can match: winning the championship. He has also not ruled himself out.

A final compromise may yet prove the most attractive, however. One man will become available in 1997 who has played for England and had international management experience. The FA could ask Robson or Keegan to carry the burden on a part-time and temporary basis and wait for the candidate they most crave for the job. Then Terry Venables would become the most successful survivor of them all.

Last Saturday's solution

pended for a year from European competition by Uefa.

"Although my agreement with Tottenham expires this summer," he said, "at the present time I am of the same opinion as I was two years ago, when I was interviewed about the England position. That is that if my future is in football, it would be at club level. I would also urge the Football Association to persist, if possible, to try to persuade Terry to change his mind and not to lose the invaluable experience gained over the last two years."

Hoddle's contract at Stamford Bridge runs out at the end of the season, which would coincide with Venables' stepping down after the European Championship final in June. He has not signed a new deal but he discounted any chance of his becoming England coach.

"I haven't even thought about it." he said. "I don't wish to look and plan too far ahead. I have got enough problems of my own as a club manager." He, too, spoke of the need for con-

tinuity in the England camp.
William Hill offer odds of 8-1
about Venables doing a U-turn and remaining in charge for the opening World Cup qualifying tie next September. Puzzled pun-ters, meanwhile, have latched on to Howard Wilkinson and Frank Clark as likely contenders.

Hill's have cut Wilkinson's rating from 8-1 to 5-2 joint second favourite, while Clark - his Nottingham Forest side are England's only European survivors has come in from 33-1 to 20-1.

Wilkinson who is under contract at Leeds until the summer of 1997, refused to discuss his chances of landing the post. He said: "I have nothing to say about the job-and that includes questions on whether I want it or don't want it - or the qualities required to do the job, the possible candidates or any other aspects of this particular issue."

The Middlesbrough manager. Robson, despite his claims, is the 7-4 favourite for the post. with the former Switzerland manager, Roy Hodgson, now in charge at Internazionale, 12-1.

A spokesman for William Hill, Graham Sharpe, said: "We are very sceptical about high profile managers who make diplomatic statements stressing how happy they are with their current jobs. We believe most managers are so confident of their own abilities they would find it almost impossible to turn down running the nation-

al side if offered it directly."

**ACROSS** 

Military supporter affected to flourish, circling round line (4-9)

Eating disorders, produced by new body chemical (7) Suitable encounter (4) Opening moves exhibiting

Not entirely attractive meal

American city (7)
Stuff that's found in bulging

ing humour about long up-

Island that is seen from be-hind in most of Indian city

decapitated (4) Hydrocarbon? Best use this yellow liquid for starters (5)

Goose suitable for Birdman

of Alcatraz in later life? (4-

Item for article in The Inde-

pendent giving advice to parachutists? (5.7)

Platform? Run out and play 26

23 Biblical heroine in reality

25 Put out while withdrawing

the guitar (7)

hamburgers (7) Mistakenly showing mock-

Excited about involving

about thespian (7)

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DOWN

Church took in gold from

End of game fellow? (4)
Male often in hot spot
shows anger over male in

Inclination not to start

the dusting? (7)
Farm produce from layers." Not chickens, principally (4)
Working logs in hard race

Initially how one plays Monopoly... (4.3.4.2) ... while at Greenwich? (2.3.8) Boards the coach (5)

Name dropping in affec-tation, displaying offen-sive attitude (5)

Go on for longer than a

One guy upset Right, he-ing less experienced (7) What's the point of a sto-

ty about a yard belonging

to the council leader? (7)

Some swimmers evidently

appears endless, unfortu-

A stroke from the whin

Continent has a former name of a local country

route snaking around

West (7)

iately (4)

curtailed (4)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thurwday receive hardbacked copies of the excellent Chambers Biographical Dictionary, worth £35. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Seend solutions to Saturday Crossword, R. O. Box 4018. The Independent, I Canado Square, Canary Wharf, London £14 58L. Picuse use the box number and postende. Last week's winners: Mrs G Scagrave, Bristol: Mrs A Donovan, West Sousee, Mr R Scaige, North Humberside; G Glover, London £(23); Box Masdin, Midlochia, Last week's winners: RA Morris, Tiverton, Devon; KR Milner, Malvern; Mr LW Blott, Rousey Hunts; GD Watt, Worsdey; Peter Jenner, Reading.

castle (7)

cual (7)

### The most famous umpire in the world: The inimitable Dickie Bird relaxes on holiday in Torquay yesterday. He retires from Test cricket at Lord's this summer Photograph: Marc Hill Get INDEPENDENT on Monday for only § with this coupon

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